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CO-OPERATIVE
WOMEN'S
GUILD



MAGAZINE

ISSUE NO.2

HELLO GUILDSWOMEN,

The Festive season is over, the parties, dinners, carols etc. all a pleasant memory once again and we are looking forward hopefully to a New Year. I say hopefully because "Hope springs eternal" and what would life be like without hope. That Peace can somehow be achieved in the world, that all those suffering from famine can be fed, that our own country's industrial troubles can be sorted out and that our Guild can forge ahead in this New Year must be the hope of all of us.

Your contributions to Around the Branches are coming in well now so please keep it up as no sooner is one magazine finished than the next one is started. However, where are those letters for penfriends so many of you wanted? Someone has to be first you know.

Ida Bailey was disappointed I did not tell you she was a guildswoman when we printed her poem, so I would like to tell you that all the material in our magazine was the work of guildswomen except the article by Ted Graham. Even the reports of other organisations were the reports of guildswomen who represent us as a Guild on those organisations. We want to keep it this way, it is your magazine, so let us have your contributions. Ida tells me she has had four albums of her poetry accepted by H.R.H. Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother and is now working on her fifth (congratulations). We do have talented people in our Guild you know, so how about our writers with their stories.

Have you written in to Head Office yet if you would like a holiday abroad with the Guild? Please do it soon.

May I wish you all a Very Happy New Year.

Vi Aldous
EDITOR

MAGAZINE COVER COMPETITION

Thank you all those who sent entries for our competition. The ideas behind your entries were varied and very good. I have had talks with our printer about your entries and have gained many helpful hints, which I will pass on to you when we hold another competition of the same kind.

Meanwhile our winner is:

June Muscroft, 31 Chedburgh Place,
Haverhill, Suffolk.

She wins a prize of £5 which will be forwarded to her.

Pen Friends

Mrs Diane Jackson of Northampton has sent in the first request for a Pen friend, and will shortly be receiving a little gift that will be useful in answering your letters. She would love to hear from Guild members from all over the country, so please don't disappoint her. I am 41 years old, she says, and my hobbies are pen friends, knitting, reading, music, and I am interested in everything.

Please send your first letter to me, Mrs M.V. Aldous, 43 Whitehill Rd, Cambridge CB5 8LU, and I will see it reaches Mrs D. Jackson.



A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 1985

These are wishes for you all as we enter the New Year. Everyone is feeling the strain of trying to keep up standards under this government and the problems we face in the movement, none more so than your own organisation. We are still suffering the effects of May 1984, when we decided to do away with the position of a General Secretary. Some people not understanding the position we were in, have made life very difficult for us, but we are gradually seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. We are grateful for help received from the Co-operative Union and the C.W.S. and we hope by Congress 1985 to be able to report a much happier and healthier position. May I thank all of you who have supported us — your N.E.C. and ask you to keep up the good work, and offer my sincere thanks to all the voluntary workers who have helped during the year.

God Bless You All,

Gertie Wood.

National President.

KNOW YOUR N.E.C.

Margaret Ann Sirs

Northern Section

Margaret (or Peggy to her friends) is married with three sons, Clifford, Gerald and Charles and has six granddaughters and one grandson. She has been active in the Guild since 1963 and served on South Durham District and Northern Section, being Northern Sectional secretary for six years before being elected to the National Executive Committee. She represents the North Eastern Co-operative Society on a number of committees and the Co-operative Party as well as being co-ordinator for a Mental Health Support Group. Her hobbies are knitting, dress-makin, cooking, Scrabble and crosswords and when time permits, she likes to do her own decorating. Remember the doll at last year's Congress? It was dressed entirely by Peggy and both the doll and its trousseau was donated by her. She tells us next Congress will see "Big Sister" no doubt dressed just as perfectly, so watch the newsletter for details. I anticipate her six granddaughters all possess lovely dressed dolls, a tribute to her hobbies.



Violet Aldous

South Eastern Section

Violet, or Vi to her friends is a widow, having lost her husband four years ago with a heart attack. He was a Trade Union Official and County Alderman, and Vi says one of her proudest memories is when with her two youngest children she went to Buckingham Palace to see him receive the M.B.E. from the Queen. In our young days, she says, we rode a tandem, spent all our holidays and spare time that way, even riding round putting up posters in the 1945 election. Eventually we found three children (two in a sidecar and one on the back) too heavy for the wheel spokes, and had to turn to a car.

Born and educated in Suffolk, she first joined the Guild in Felixstowe in her twenties, and here, she said, we used to sing our hearts out, they had a lovely choir and a wonderful blind choirmaster.

She later moved to Cambridge and as well as serving on the District Committee and South Eastern Section, she was a member of Cambridge Education Committee for 18 years, a Director of her Society for the last 20 years, and represents them on a number of Committees, including the Southern Co-operative Convalescent Fund of which she was Chairman for two years and thoroughly enjoys. A Vice-Chairman of her Society and a member of the Co-operative Party for a number of years, she is well known in Co-operative circles.

Her hobbies are reading, writing, cooking, travelling, her Guild and her Scouts. Christmas Bazaars, Summer Fetes, and Committee meetings keep her busy, also her family who, like her, like to be involved. She has four daughters, two sons, and 12 grandchildren. Daughter Betty helps her type the Guild magazine, Carol runs a Mothers and Toddlers Group,

while Elieen is secretary to the local Scout Group, Charles is a District Scout Leader, and granddaughter Kathryn is an Akela of her Cub Pack.

Jeannie Macey

National Vice President

Yorkshire Section

Jeannie has been a Guild member for twenty seven years and has held all offices during that time, including ten years as District Secretary and six years as Section Treasurer. She represents the Guild on N.C.J.A.C. and the Co-operative Union Sectional Council.

Born near Kendal in the Lake District, she came to Clay Cross in 1939 with the A.T.S. Married with one son and two daughters, her husband is an N.C.B. shift-worker. Her married daughter lives in the Lake District, her other daughter is a member of her local Guild, and her son, unmarried, lives at home.

She tells me her main interest is the Guild and its survival, and lists her hobbies as painting, pottery, knitting, crochet, reading and walking in the country when time permits.

Around the Branches

Liverpool and West Lancashire District took a coach party from the Lancashire Section to the A.G.M. of the Mary Macarthur Holiday Home in the United Reform Church Hall at Poulton-le-Fylde. Members came from Liverpool, Southport and the Wirral and enjoyed very much a talk by County Councillor P.P. Hall on "The Fylde Area" who went back into history explaining the meaning of Fylde and how the area had grown up from marshy ground to the place it is today. I was there too from the Southern Co-operative Convalescent Fund and I found

it extremely interesting — Editor.) After the meeting members were taken on a tour of the home by Mrs. Joan Baker, followed by tea at the hall. We were very pleased to have with us the retiring National President, Mrs. Joyce Brabham and her husband also ex Vice-President Mrs. Margaret O'Donnal. We spent a couple of hours at Blackpool on the way home and were able to give Mr. and Mrs. Brabham a lift there, where they were staying for a few days.

Irene Taylor (District Secretary)

Failsworth Guild say they are a very Happy Guild and their sixty members are very active. Recently they held a "Query Meeting" and were asked "What did the Guild mean to them" and the following replies came to light:-

1. Company
2. An insight into other people's lives.
3. Seeing courage by women left alone to cope, even to bringing up families on their own.
4. Happy bright faces glad to see you.
5. A break from the household chores in the middle of the week.

6. Happy outings, all cares forgotten.
7. Swapping news, recipes, ideas or just talking.
8. Seeing films of our lovely island and places abroad.
9. Sharing our joys and sorrows and feel we need more people like this.

No wonder they are a happy guild, and they enclosed a poem by one of their members age 65 showing how she sees the changes in our societies.

Mrs. E. Longventh (Secretary)



Cambridge Central Guild vowed in Centenary Year that they would follow up the District's gift of a cot and accessories to the new Rosie Maternity Hospital with a picture, one of the things the Nursing Officer had said she would like. Maternity, they said, was one of the Guild's first campaigns and as we were lucky enough to be having a new Maternity Hospital, it should be our Centenary Project. They commissioned a Hertfordshire artist, Mr. Harold Steed, for a bright colourful oil painting and he came up with a colourful scene of Marlow-on-Thames. The Guild then raised the money to have it framed perfectly and an inscription

put on "Presented by the Cambridge Co-operative Womens' Guild (Central Branch)". Mr. P. Paxton, the Chief Executive Officer of the Cambridge Co-operative Society, was asked to present it on behalf of the Guild to Miss Liz Earl (Head of Nursing Services) and the artist was also present, as well as the press. When the artist realised what we were doing with the painting he refused any payment for it and said he was delighted to have his work hanging in the hospital. Tea and refreshments followed and our painting now hangs proudly in our new hospital admired by all who see it. We have kept our vow.

V. Lawrence (Secretary)

North Lowestoft Guild celebrated their 50th birthday on Saturday, 10th November with a Dinner and Dance. Their President, Mrs. L. Colman, supported by the Secretary, Mrs. V. Ludkin, presided over a grand three course dinner. Amongst the guests were, Mr. R. White, Finance Officer of the Waveney Society and his wife; Mr. and Mrs. F. Jones, President of the Society; Mrs. M. V. Aldous, Guild National Executive Committee; Mrs. E. Ward, District Secretary; Mrs. E. Sadd, President of the South Lowestoft Guild and Miss H. Batley, Secretary of South Lowestoft. Mrs. L. Coleman and Mrs. M.V. Aldous N.E.C. were presented with a desk calendar in old gold, the nearest, said the secretary, she could get to gold. Mrs. E. Ward,

The South Eastern Section held their Annual Church Dedication Service and Rally at Chelmsford on 4th October, 1984. The Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford, Councillor Mrs. C. Johnson and her daughter, were present on both occasions. The Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving was conducted by Canon Peter Marshall, Mrs. F. Francis read the bidding and Mrs. V. Aldous the lesson. The Chelmsford Star Society was represented by Mr. J. Saville, President and Mr. H. Garrett, Secretary/Chief Executive Officer and the Society entertained the Mayor and Mayoress and guests to lunch.

Mrs. M.V. Aldous, Chairman, welcomed over 400 members at the Rally in the afternoon. Councillor Mrs. C. Jones gave a Civic Welcome and endeared herself to members by speaking of her mother, who was one of the first Chelmsford Co-operative guildswomen, and she had brought with her many of her mother's early pamphlets and books etc. of those days. She was presented with a bouquet and the Mayoress with a Society voucher.

District Secretary, presented the secretary Mrs. V. Ludkin with a beautiful plant and in replying Mrs. Ludkin said it was the first time in their 50 years they had ever had an N.E.C. member at one of their dinners and were proud they had on this special occasion, and she went on to read out the minutes of their very first meeting. A beautiful Birthday Cake in blue and white and sherry was provided by the Waveney Society, and their President and Finance Officer wished them all the best for the future. Friends and husbands then joined the diners for an evening of Old Time Dancing. Mr. B. Wright was M.C. with the help of his wife, who is the Guild's Vice President. A very happy occasion, and all went home with a box of chocolates from Santa!!

Mrs. G. Ainsley, Chairman of the Colchester District gave a welcome and Mr. J. Savill, President gave a welcome on behalf of the Society.

Lord Graham of Edmonton was the Guest Speaker and his subject was "Co-operative Democracy — A Precious Heritage under Threat", and he left his audience with much food for thought. Lord Graham and Mr. Savill were presented with a Guild Parker Pen. Mrs. B. Bowmer of Royston Guild gave a vote of thanks. £95.00 was collected in the Cathedral and of this a cheque for £40 was sent in our name to the N.S.P.C.C.

Mrs. F. Francis, Sectional Secretary

The South East Metropolitan District recently presented a television and a table lamp to Homeleigh Old People's Home at Erith. Pictured in their local paper at the Presentation were Mrs Joan Till, Mrs Susan King, Mrs Ivy Chadwick and Mrs Mabel McDonald.

Leicester District held a Social Evening recently, with a Buffet Supper to mark the retirement of Mr. Reg Lowe, Member Relations Officer, who was also completing 50 years with the Leicester Co-operative Society. 135 Guildswomen from all over the County and Northamptonshire attended and entertainment was provided by Branches and individuals. A pair of binoculars from the Guildswomen was presented to Mr. Lowe and some ornamental china to Mrs. Lowe. It was a lovely evening much enjoyed by all present.

Joan Chadwick, District Secretary

Hyde Co-operative Guild sent me a report they had printed in the "North Cheshire Herald" of our Guild Congress at Bridlington. They were represented by Mrs. Irene Marshall and Mrs. Joan Powell and their report contained mentions of our resolutions on Pensions, American Bases in Britain, Cruise Missiles, Hospitals and Well Women Clinics amongst many others. It was an extremely good report and shows you can get your reports in your local papers if your content is good and you persevere. Well done Hyde, Keep it up.

Mrs. I. McCann (Secretary)



Ninety two year old Mrs Catherine Lewis of Ingleside Crescent, Lancing, was recently presented with 20,000 Co-op stamps. This was to mark the fact that she has been a member of the Co-op

Women's Guild for 60 years, and she is the oldest member in the southern region. Doesn't she look a "Lively 92, I bet her Guild is proud of her."

Erith Young Women's Co-op Guild, presented a £1,000 cheque to London's famous Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children at a special evening held at the Pop In Parlour, Queen Street. Mrs Janet Longhurst, Guild chairman, handed the cheque to Miss Srah Wimhurst, secretary in the administration department at the hospital. The money was raised through sponsored activities including

cheese and wine evenings, auctions and discos. The R.A.C.S. was represented at the function and a buffet was provided by staff at the local R.A.C.S. supermarket. Pictured in their local paper at the Presentation were Kathleen Embleton, Lynda Crowther, Patricia Parrick, Ann Yearsley, Brenda Mann, Janet Longhurst and Dolly Pollins. (Congratulations on a marvellous achievement.)

About 40 members of the Cambridge Central Guild sat down to their Annual Xmas Dinner in the Bee-Hive Social Club. Their Guest of Honour was their Society's Dry Goods Officer, Mrs Sylvia Stock. The three course dinner was cooked by the committee, the Florida Cocktails were the work of Mrs Flack, and the Roast Beef cooked by the chairman, Mrs Vi Aldous, was voted a dream (who said N.E.C. members don't work?). Delicious Fruit Trifles were contributed by the members and a glass of wine and After Eights completed the meal. Audrey Halls was in charge after dinner with her fantastic games, she never fails to surprise

us. A tribute is due to our secretary Mrs Vera Lawrence who, with her helpers, decorated the tables and walls so beautifully as well as dealing with the secretarial work involved, and running members home afterwards. A cup of tea or coffee and mince pies, sausage rolls and cheese dreams ended the evening, as one member said "the best Dinner ever" but they say it every year. However, proud of the way my Committee worked together, of my members for their contributions to the evening I can only agree, "It was the Best Dinner ever".

**Vi Aldous, President,
Cambridge Central Branch**

The District Council in Cambridge held a Christmas Party in the Beehive Social Club for all Guildswomen in their District in December. Nearly a hundred guild members from Haverhill, Letchworth, Royston, and the Cambridge Guilds were present. Many of the guildswomen from outside Cambridge took the opportunity to visit the newly refurbished Burleigh Street Department Store which is a credit to our Society, and spent the morning shopping.

A happy afternoon was spent together,

a chance to gossip to old Guild friends not seen too often. Tea, sausage rolls, sandwiches, and cakes were handed round by the committee amid laughter and chatting. An "Auction" of Xmas goods brought by members raised money for much needed District funds, bringing a smile to our hard working treasurer's face. A raffle and games brought the party to an end, when sadly all members had to return home again.

**Audrey Halls, Chairman,
Cambridge District Committee**

Twenty three members of the Lincoln Guild visited their City Guildhall last September. They were welcomed by the Mayor of the City, Mrs. Norah Baldock, the Mayor's office and told of the wonderful history of the building and shown some of its treasures. There were my gold and silver swords and chains of office which are hundreds of years old.

All signed the visitors book and then were entertained to a Buffet supper in the ante-room, a special evening enjoyed very much by all. The Guildhall is open to the public, the first Saturday in the month, and is well worth a visit if you happen to be in Lincoln.

E. Jackson, Secretary

"OF HOLE HERTE"

On a Saturday last summer, two working class women from Ashton in Makerfield Co-operative Women's Guild, went to City University in London for a Conference and to celebrate 50 years of work by the National Council of Civil Liberties; you can imagine what an illuminating day they had. The purpose of the Conference was to give a sense of Women's Rights History and to point us where we go in the future (Co-operative Women's Guild also). Over four hundred activities, many of them regular campaigners in scores of relevant areas, met in the Oliver Thompson Hall. Two hundred applicants in the preceding week had been refused admission because of over subscription according to Margot Trevelyan, the NCCL organiser.

In the coffee hour before the main morning speech making, we met many interesting participants including five guildswomen from Alban Wood — Fay Woolf, Margo Smith, Evelyn Fisher, Giselle Peterson and Freda Rowan. We perused the literature and displays of many groups. It was amazing to find the huge number and colossal variety of women's organisations in this country. At the morning plenary we heard speeches from communist journalist Bea Campbell and then from a black activist (to whom I apologise for not catching her name). Star of this session for me was Dora Russell in London from her Cornwall home, talking with all her old spirit and humour despite a wheelchair. Later it was a blissful privilege to chat with her about her connections with the C.W.G. Her speech interested me most.

During years of struggle by women in the face of an entrenched opposition, Dora Russell had been associated with the founding of the NCCL, as were Major Attlee, Fenner Brockway, Harold Laski,

Pollitt and Maude Royden. The NCCL members were never very active in the political field concerning the rights of women, but at least those women involved had liberated themselves. When mentioning matters of sex, in which she had been interested, mischievously she hinted that lesbianism might solve the population problem! In the past patriarchy had led to much fury and frustration, women must now work side by side with men. There is no aspect of life with which women should not be concerned. The greatest blunder in history was that the majesty of the Russian Revolution had not been recognised. If the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union had stretched forth their hands to each other, then what a difference that would have made. In the present babble between the two great powers it must be asked "By what right are we considered expendable. Women of today have the hardest of struggles. As equal partners in the production of human beings they have rightful shares in the purpose of life. With all my heart I wish you well."

Bea Campbell sincerely and amusingly told of her conversion to feminism. The black feminist was not content with NCCL actions. She pointed out the general arrogance of the British, the increase in state racism and how black needs were different from white. After lunch Mrs. Davis and I went to one of the eleven workshops we had chosen, "Women, Peace and Public Order", Dora Russell came too, listened but did not speak. Liz Woodcraft, Feminist Barrister, defender of prosecuted Greenham Common Women, was the leader, assisted by Helen John and Trina Cornwell and Barbara Cohen, NCCL Legal Officer. A representative of Women in Armagh also spoke.

Very interesting contributions produced rather hesitant responses as if the young ladies present were unsure. Greenham experience had comforted them and eased their agonising over peace/war arguments but — "Where do we go from Greenham?" Direct involvement against NATO War Games on the Rhine? The threat of nuclear war must be an issue attached to all feminists and pacifist actions suggested Helen John. Two hours of discussion led to no agreed solutions, but we ended our meeting stimulated,

thoughtful and exhausted. In fact exhaustion dominated the state of your two Guildswomen at the close of the day. However, we'll have plenty to think about in later tranquility. We know too that although we may not walk so well as we used to do, or hear so clearly, or talk so fast, we were left with hope for the future given to us by those young women at City University just as hope was given to us by our young Guildswomen at the Bridlington Congress.

PRESS RELEASE FROM THE DOMESTIC COAL CONSUMERS' COUNCIL

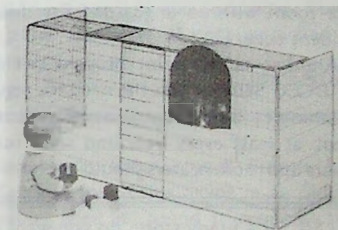
by Linda Millington

SOMEONE ELSE'S CHILD IN THE AMBULANCE?

The winter months bring stories of unhappiness among some families using solid fuel. This is the time of the year when accidents happen. Simple precautions could prevent some of them — the trouble is we think it is always going to be someone else's child in the ambulance.

The Domestic Coal Consumers' Council, an independent body which looks after the interests of solid fuel users, is issuing a new leaflet to get the safety message across to solid fuel users — particularly families with young children or infirm elderly people in them. The Co-operative Womens' Guild was invited to the seminar to launch the new leaflet and heard about the new safety standards for fireguards.

Linda Swinford, a speaker from RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) had some chilling stories about home accidents. She quoted from the Government's Home Accidents statistics based on treatment at just 20 hospitals.



"A quarter of home accidents where the patient is taken to hospital happen to children under four years of age. Most of them are injured in the living room of their own home. 1,700 last year were involved in burning accidents from a controlled heat source (i.e. a fire)."

Only the briefest of accident descriptions are given in the statistics, but even these could be horrific, said Linda Swinford. She quoted the report which just said:-

"Ten month old child. Fell into coal fire. 45% burns. Parents too upset to interview."

A suitable fireguard for homes with elderly relatives or young children would be made to the new British Standard (BS 6539). It looks like a rectangular cage which can be clipped to the fire surround by safety hooks.

Sadly, research by the Domestic Coal Consumers' Council has shown that among homes with young children, 19% did not own any sort of fireguard and those that did own them by no means always used them. Quite often families thought they were protected because they owned a 'sparkguard'. These sparkguards are much smaller than proper fireguards and do not fix to the wall so would not prevent a fall into the fire. They are useful for placing in front of the fire when the room is left empty, perhaps at bedtime.

It is in fact an offence to leave children under 12 years (seven in Scotland) in a room with an unguarded fire if an accident occurs.

Another safety point brought out at the DCCC Seminar was the need for regular chimney sweeping. They should be swept at least every year and solid fuel boilers and room heaters should be cleaned

out and flueways brushed free of soot once a month. Chimney sweeps who belong to the relatively new National Association of Chimney Sweeps will soon be leaving customers with a Certificate of Sweeping. It will say how the job was done, when the chimney was swept, what condition it was in and when it should next be done. Quite a useful reminder, particularly when we remember that blocked chimneys or flues can cause poisonous gases to seep into our rooms and could even, in the worst cases, kill someone.

Free copies of the leaflets may be obtained by writing to the following address:-

Domestic Coal Consumers' Council,
Gavrelle House, 2, Bunhill Row,
London EC1Y 8LL.

Eunice Stump N.E.C.

You ask for a funny story, do you want it in rhyme?
I suppose that you wish me to say, life is really fine.
Well it's not so bad so far, but if you are ill there's no chance,
As nearly all the doctors have a programme, book a week in advance.
So the first job is to hope you last over the weekend following next
You do, then the doctor just tells you, Now go home and have a good rest.
The next situation is prescriptions, off to the Chemist you go,
You receive medicine and tablets but can't read the directions, so
Off to the optician's for an eye test, glasses you get, then you see
You've been taking your medicine before the tablets when it's the other way round for thee.
Then there's all those forms one has to see to, election is one that I got,
It says put your name at the bottom and it's there right before you on top.
Like some forms one fills about pensions, there's so many pensions, oh my,
There's state, superan, and disabled, it really makes one blink an eye.
It's a good job we women can take it, I mean the way these men have their say.
And now they are starting with computers, what next will they alter our ways
There's microwave ovens that twizzel, I wonder if they fo micro hair waves
Still it's wonderful to be living, even now with pit strikes the lot
I don't have to worry, I'm seventy three, and my pension is paid on the dot,
Although I have to collect it, every Thursday at my Post Office, so
I call him my bank manager, collect my money and home I go.

Lilian Taylor
Crosby Guild, Scunthorpe

RECIPES FROM THE POTATO MARKETING BOARD

Baked Cheesy Potatoes

4 baked potatoes in skins
3 oz grated Cheddar cheese
1 egg, separated
Salt and Pepper

Method

Cut a slice from the top of each potato. Scoop out the flesh and mash well with butter, cheese, egg yolk, salt and pepper. Whisk the egg white stiffly and fold into the mashed potato. Pile back into the skins and re-heat in a hot oven for 5-10 minutes.

Potato Quickies

4 oz plain flour
1lb potatoes, peeled, cooked and sieved
Salt to flavour

Method

Add flour and salt to the cooked potatoes and knead well, Roll thinly on a floured board, prick with a fork, cut into rounds or triangles. Cook quickly on a lightly greased heavy pan or griddle. Serve hot or cold with butter and jam.

Posh Potatoes Avocado Dip

6 oz potatoes, peeled, cooked and sieved
1 ripe avocado pear
1 teaspoon lemon juice
2 eggs, size 3, hard boiled and finely chopped
2 tablespoons yoghurt dressing or mayonnaise
Salt
Black pepper

Method

Halve the avocado lengthways, remove stone, mash the flesh in a bowl with lemon juice. Mix with remaining ingredients. Transfer to serving bowl, chill. Stand bowl on a large plate. Surround with crisps and sticks of celery, pepper, carrot and cucumber.

Lyonnaise

1lb potatoes, peeled & sliced
2 oz butter
1 tblspn oil
1 large onion, sliced
Salt and pepper
Parsley to garnish

Method

Parboil the potatoes for 5 minutes. Drain. Meanwhile heat the fats in a frying pan and fry the onions until soft and golden brown. Drain and keep hot. Fry the potatoes in the hot fat until crisp and golden. Add the onions and seasoning. Toss together and serve at once garnished with parsley.

Eunice Stump

Eva Angle, Bromborough Branch, Lancs Section, found this recipe in an old magazine, tried it, found it economical, of good set and colour, and her husband liked the taste. Quantities quoted yielded 5 pounds of marmalade and she sends us the recipe to try.

APPLE AND ORANGE MARMALADE

Ingredients

SKIN only of 3 Jaffa oranges
1 pound cooking apples (after peeling)
3 pounds of sugar
2½ pints water with small pinch of bi-carb soda added

Method

Shred skins of oranges and add to water, soak over night.
Simmer to soften peel about 1½ hours. Add sliced apple and simmer for further 20 minutes.
Add sugar and bring to rolling boil for about 20 minutes, until set is reached. Pour into hot jars, and seal when cold.

THE PROGRESS OF THE CO-OP

Many years have rolled by since that group of far seeing men travelled back and forth to the City to buy stocks of food and then sold it cheaply to their workers. So that's how the co-operative movement came about, they worked harder, the owners expanded. Since they opened their first store, stores have sprouted in towns, cities and even on country lanes. They progressed, modernised and have grown and grown. Five score years now since those days of yore.

Our mothers shopped at those early super stores, the Manager always greeted them with a friendly smile, their parcels were wrapped and tied up — now a forgotten pleasure.

They bought stores, mops and polish to clean the floors also firewood, matches and Brasso to polish the knocker on the door, yeast and bags of flour to bake bread. What a treat on Friday (wage day). Mother took her little basket to buy the meat, us children waited for our Friday penny to buy sweets, a lovely treat. Time and tide wait for no man as the poet is loth to say so we progress on to this modern day.

Science and mobility are here with us to stay, special buses bring shoppers from far and near and many travel in their own private car. They roll into the Great Supermarket (The Giant) by name. It's like Aladdin's cave! and the doors open by magic. You still get your basket, now a metal one on wheels and there is a T.V.

eye at the entrance to watch for shop lifters. You can buy beds, furniture, everything to make your home so smart, paints, wallpaper (one doesn't know where to start), and clothing where one can be fitted from top to toe. Food comes next, you can buy enough for a month or so, when you get to the check out, hope you have enough dough!

Farnsworth, our village, although only small, proudly hosts a giant supermarket with bargains for all. Also a Women's Guild, we number over sixty in all and our President and staff work so hard to keep things running smoothly. We have Bring and Buy Sales, Chat Shows, Film Shows, Trips out (that's her claim) — no wonder she's like a gem sitting there wearing her chain. We loudly sing out "The Rainbow Flag" for the efforts of all who never seem to lag. Gifts to different charities we have gratefully given, to give them hope and make them happy is what we have striven.

Our meeting begins to draw to an end and after a few games of Bingo our wayward home we begin to wend. We have also enjoyed a welcome break for biscuits and tea and a fond goodnight is wished to all, it costs only a small fee. It's the happiest little community no wonder we all agree!

**Joan Lgod (Age 64),
Failsworth Co-operative
Women's Guild**

RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS

Take a heaping cup of Patience, and a big heartfelt of Love,
Add two handfuls of Generosity, to all of the above.
Then blend in a dash of Laughter, and some Understanding too,
Sprinkle generously with Kindness, and memories old and new;
Add a lot of Faith and mix well to make it nice and sweet,
And share a heaping portion with everyone you meet.

Found in a Birthday Card by Peggy Sirs, N.E.C.

DREAMS SOMETIMES COME TRUE

From 1946 until 1975, I worked for the University looking after young men who were hoping to take their degrees in a subject of their choice. Among the hundreds I had looked after were two young Canadians. In due course they won their degrees, one in Law the other in English, then they left.

They both corresponded with me, the Lawyer for four years, the other every Christmas, but in 1983 the one that had studied Law, turned up at my front door and introduced himself. Of course after 29 years I didn't recognise him at first, but after a minute or so I did, and when the shock of seeing him again subsided he came in for coffee. I learnt then that he was now a Judge in Canada, and was the father of six children. After the quickest hour I had ever spent, he had to go back to the Conference in the city which had been the reason for his visit. As he was leaving he said "When are you visiting me? We would love to have you come." I said it was out of the question as I was on a widow's pension and the cost would be too great. Although I had always told my family Canada was the one place I would go if ever money allowed.

Then in April 1984, an elderly relative who I had looked after for about four years died, and much to my surprise left me some money. My family immediately said, Mum you are going to Canada before you give us any, for I had thought to share it with them. I wrote to my Judge friend telling him of my changed circumstances, and asking him if it would be convenient for my daughter to accompany me. He wrote back saying he was delighted I could go, and we could go when we liked and stay as long as we liked, but he would advise us to go in the fall as the Maple trees were at their best then as indeed they were. On September 21st we

left Heathrow for Canada very excited, I couldn't really believe it was happening to me.

My man was at Toronto Airport to meet us, and we arrived at his home to be made welcome by his wife and family. Next day he took us to his Church, where a few weeks earlier the Pope had visited, the largest church in Toronto. There we were introduced to some charming people, in fact they were all very nice that we met, they love anything that is English.

Ten days after we arrived, the Queen and Prince Philip paid a visit. We saw them both on two occasions, they had a great reception wherever they went. In the meantime my host had been in touch with the other man in my life, who is now a Principal of a boys' college, and he arranged to fetch us to meet his wife and family, and they entertained us to dinner one day. Another time he took us over his college and we met his staff and took tea in his study, much to his and my delight.

We stayed in Canada until October 19th. The wonderful sights we saw, the Maple trees in all their beautiful colours is a sight you have to see. The charming people we met, my two men and their families treated us like Royalty, as they both said I was a very good friend when they were so far from home, but if I did them any kindnesses they repaid me a thousand times.

I shall never forget this holiday, and as you say dreams do sometimes come true. I don't think I shall ever stop talking about it.

Ada Edwards
Central Branch, Cambridge

Have you ever had a dream come true?
If so why not write and share it with us?
— Editor.

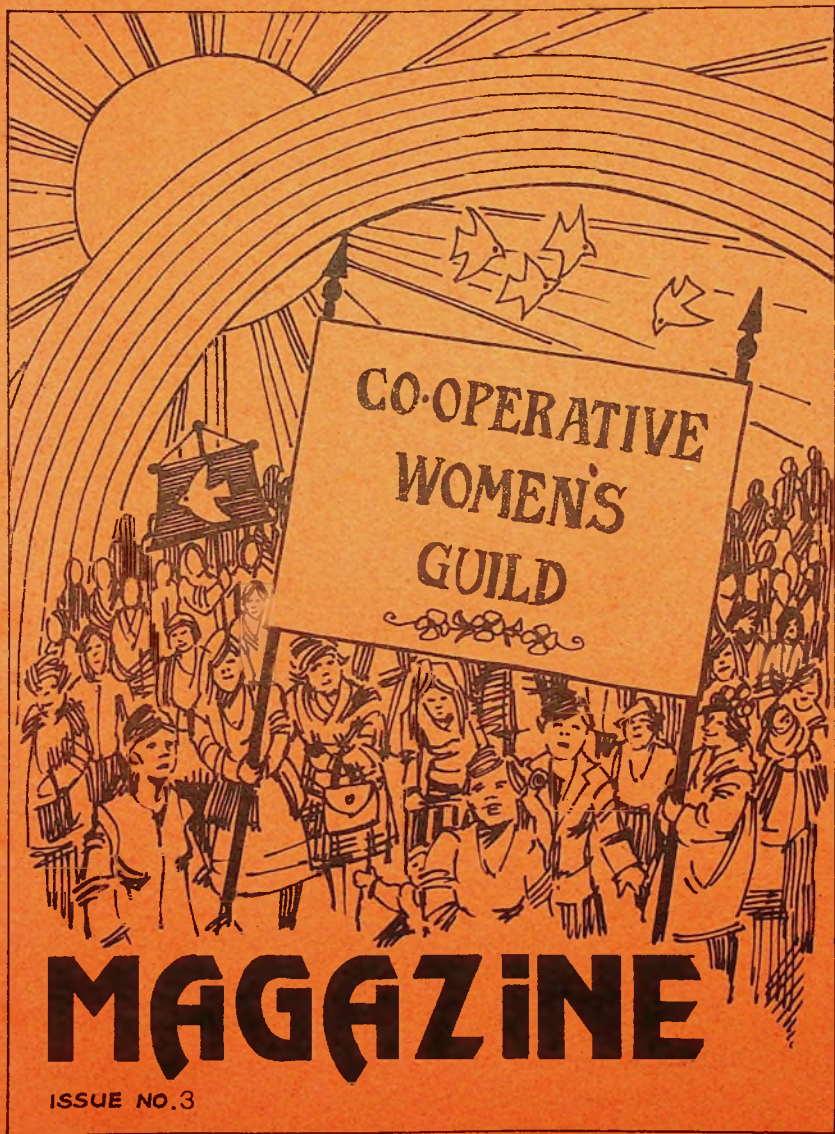
STORY

DAVID

It was a dark stormy night with the wind occasionally blowing away the clouds to reveal a watery moon, but David did not mind as he huddled behind the thick hedge. The darker the night the better he thought, as he clutched the parcel under his coat and permitted himself a small chuckle. As he waited his mind went back to the conversation round the tea table earlier in the day. David was 17½ years old, a man in his opinion, but his two brothers, aged 19 and 21 respectively, still considered him a boy and he came in for much teasing, good natured as a rule, but sometimes just too much to put up with. There was some kind of celebration going on in the village Pub that evening, his elder brother was explaining to his parents at the tea table, because Fred was leaving the village and moving some distance away. Fred was a well known character in the village and all three boys knew him well and the evening promised some high jinks. David, who had worked with Fred at one time, announced his intention of going along and was promptly sat upon by both brothers. He was not old enough they said for what would undoubtedly occur and they were not having him drunk and showing them up. A hot argument had followed, their parents trying to calm things down, though by now they too were worried about his going, and his brothers threatened what they would do if he dared to show up. It was a sulky lad who watched his brothers depart, dressed up to kill with shining

shoes and buttonhole and vowed it would be very different when they came home. Later in the evening he had gone out saying he was going to see a friend, leaving his parents by the fire. Don't be late they called out to him and he replied, "I won't" and his parents smiled at his normal tone; their David was himself again. Behind the hedge he listened carefully, they shouldn't be long now and suddenly he grinned, he had known how it would be with his brothers. Arm in arm singing at the top of their voices and wandering all over the dark road, so obvious that they had drank all too well and in no fit state to notice anything properly. He waited until they were nearly up to him and then rose up to his full height groaning and moaning mournfully. The wind howled helpfully and blew the white folds about his head. The brothers took one look at the white floating thing on the top of the hedge moaning and leaning towards them, screamed "a ghost," and turning, ran back the way they had come. David tucked his sheet under his coat and using the hedge as a screen ran across the field and in the back of his home. When his brothers returned home half an hour later, David was asleep, sheet tucked back in his bed. No one believed his brothers of course, they were drunk and had imagined it. If David's mother noticed his sheet was very crumpled with mud on one corner, she never said and David was happy with his revenge.

A.V.S.



CO-OPERATIVE
WOMEN'S
GUILD

MAGAZINE

ISSUE NO. 3

HELLO GILDSWOMEN,

Congress will soon be with us and I hope to have seen all copies of this Magazine safely on their way to you before then. It will be our first week-end Congress, and I know some of you had reservations about it for different reasons, but I hear a number of Guildswomen are still making it a week's holiday by simply travelling mid-week instead of weekends. Good for you; I have very happy memories of the Northern Girls (as we called them) who made Congress an Annual District Holiday, of the parties, call outs in the middle of the night (how they made us feel that was fun I've never understood, but they did). They performed concerts taking over the whole of the dining room, and wheedled the proprietor into making coffee and sandwiches well out of his normal hours. The next morning however there they were up at the rostrum earnestly and forthrightly putting over their resolutions. Happy Days; may this Congress be a happy and profitable one for you all.

I was sorry that the names of Mrs F. Stabeler and Mrs V. Davies were inadvertently left off their report "OF HOLE HERTE" in our last magazine, and somehow I called Mrs L. Oldman by a wrong name. My apologies to them all. Please keep sending in your reports and articles, it's a help to have some in hand, and I will print them all in time. I am at present holding on to a recipe for Home Made Mincemeat which I feel will be more appropriate for the Autumn. I'd like some more recipes please and short stories. May I thank those Guildswomen and Branches who have sent definite orders for the magazine; if only every branch would order a few we could cut the price and make a small profit for the Guild.

A number of photographs cut from newspapers have been sent to me and I would love to have printed them, but they will not reproduce, so please get the original photograph from the paper which you can buy, and I promise to return it after use unharmed. Please remember all photographs must be black and white.

Vi Aldous

EDITOR

PEN FRIEND

I have a request for pen friends from Miss Nora Ellis of Northampton. She would be pleased to hear from someone living in the Northampton area. She also wants to hear from Guildswomen from Stratford on Avon and Wrexham, North Wales. Miss Ellis is 52 years old and is on her own now having lost her parents, except for two beautiful grey cats and a few very good friends. The Guild, she

tells me, is her only real social interest, but her other interests include reading, light music, dancing, singing, studying the Bible, some T.V. and helping other people. She would dearly love a friend in similar circumstances to herself who also loves animals.

Nora sounds a very interesting person so please write to her sending your first letter to me, Mrs M.V. Aldous, 43 Whitehill Road, Cambridge CB5 8LU.

KNOW YOUR N.E.C.



Doreen Price

N. E. Midland Section

Doreen is married with two daughters, Penny and Susan, and she has four grand-

sons. She has been active in the Guild since coming to live in Nottingham in 1963. Doreen served as branch secretary for 20 years, as District Secretary for 10 years, for 5 years on the N.E. Midland Section, before being elected to the National Executive Committee. A director of her society for 10 years, and Vice Chairman for 2 years, she also served on her Education Committee for 20 years. Doreen has been a very busy person for her Society, and is also a member of the Co-operative Party.

In her other activities she is District Organiser for the Women's Royal Voluntary Service, and has been a magistrate since 1969. Working voluntarily with the elderly is something she tells me she has become very involved in. Doreen has also served as a councillor, being Chairman of the Public Health Committee. Her hobbies she lists as knitting, embroidery and reading when time permits. She omitted to mention she also drives a car.

Margaret O'Donnell

Lancashire Section

Margaret was born in Liverpool, but moved to Earlestown at an early age where she still lives. A Guild member for 35 years, she has served in the branch, District and Section, including 6 years as District Secretary and 5 years as Sectional Treasurer. She was a Director of her Society for 8 years, and has also served on the N.C.J.A.C. and the North Western Section Educational Council. Margaret is a widow having lost her husband while serving as District Secretary, and found the encouragement of her family and Guild friends a great help in carrying on

with her work. She has a daughter, son in law, and two grandchildren, and tells me her main interest is the Guild and its future, while she lists her hobbies as reading, knitting, sewing, helping the sick and aged when time permits.

Margaret was Vice President in Centenary Year, and has many happy memories of that time, as she says with Joyce Brabham as National President by her side, including being presented to Her Majesty The Queen, the invitation to Lady Donaldson Lord Mayor's Parade and the C.W.S. Float, and having the traffic stopped in Whitehall to lay a wreath of white poppies on the Cenotaph with the N.E.C.

Around the Branches

Wednesfield Branch held a French Evening in February and advertised it well locally, making it open in the hope of attracting new members. Film slides of France were shown, and wine was served. (It sounds very attractive I hope they were successful, Ed.)

This year they will be celebrating their 21st Birthday on April 2nd, and will be having a Party inviting members from the other Guilds in their District.

Sylvia Nixon, Branch Secretary

South Staffs District held a Christmas Fayre in December at the Co-op rooms at Walsall. The President of the West Midlands Co-operative Society opened the event which was well attended, and a success socially and financially.

In February they were visiting the Crown Windsor works at Stoke on Trent. They held their District A.G.M. in March, and the speaker was the National President, Mrs Gertie Woods, who spoke on her visit to Hamburg to attend the I.C.A. and the Women's International meeting.

Cambridge District held their A.G.M. on Monday March 18th at the Beehive Social Club, and a wonderful afternoon it turned out to be. Letchworth Guild had brought along their Birthday cake to share with all the other Guilds and asked to be allowed to perform a little ceremony of cutting the cake and passing over the Presidential Chain to their new Chairman. This was readily agreed to, and Mrs Jessie Clark cut the cake and members sang Happy Birthday. We then proceeded to business; Minutes, Reports, etc. were soon dealt with, some very good reports of branches I may add, with secretaries

jotting down ideas for their next programmes.

Mr John Clark, Cambridge Societies Food Trades Officer, was our speaker, and as the Birthday cake was then ready to pass round, he and his colleagues dispensed glasses of wine to try with it. He talked about how the presentation of foods has changed over the years, and we were shown trays of cooked meats and cheese in the way they were presented just after the war, 10 years ago, and today's marvellous selections presented to attract customers. We should, he said, try some of the newer cheeses that were around today, as well as other new foods, which offered a variety not seen before and which would suit all tastes, not just those of the generation now growing up. Questions were numerous and the next half hour passed in a flash. Members were then invited to taste the products, which they proceeded to do with enjoyment, followed by a cup of tea. A vote of thanks was given to Mr John Clark, to which he replied "It had been a pleasure." The raffle was then drawn, three bottles of wine were auctioned for district funds, and small parcels were given to all Guild members as they left for home. What could have been an ordinary afternoon turned out to be a wonderful A.G.M.

Audrey Halls, District Chairman

Norwich District held their A.G.M. in March at the Drill Hall, Mile Cross, Norwich. The Chairman asked members to stand in memory of Mrs Eileen Ward, District Secretary, who had died at Christmas, also all members who had passed away since their last meeting. Many tributes were paid to Eileen for her work for the Guild. She was greatly loved by

all who knew her, and the Chairman said the best tribute we could pay her, would be to carry on with the good work. She expressed her thanks to Mrs Aldrich and Mrs Steggall of Harleston Guild, who were prepared to take on as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, and wished them well in their efforts.

There were about 150 members present, as well as Mrs V. Aldous, N.E.C., and Mr and Mrs Jack Marshall. Mr Marshall is a Director of Norwich Society and a member of the Member Relations Committee, and he congratulated branches on their yearly reports. It was an eye opener to him, he said, to hear of all their activities. Norwich

Society, he told us, had just finished a very successful year and he prophesied they would find themselves in the top two societies this year. Arrangements were all in hand for their Annual Lunch arranged by the Member Relations Committee, which had grown out of events held in Centenary year, he told us, and would be held at Gorleston. The Societies new Funeral Pre-payment Plan was explained, and leaflets were available. Mrs Marshall judged the entries for the contests, which were very good, and Mile Cross Guild presented Mr and Mrs Marshall with a lovely flower arrangement.

Mrs A. Aldritch, District Secretary



Have you sent off your Save our Health Service cards yet. This photograph shows the Central Guild Cambridge, posting

theirs, and the press were pleased to be there. Try your local paper when you post yours.

Recently, Isobel Hancock and Edna Davey, members of Moreton Guild, were privileged to travel to Europe to see the E.E.C. at work. Flying from Manchester to Amsterdam in an incredible 45 minutes, they joined a coach arriving at their hotel in the middle of a thunderstorm. The following day the coach took them to Luxembourg. During the journey they passed through places whose names brought memories of World War Two — Arnhem, Brabant, Liege, etc. Luxembourg was rather beautiful in its autumn setting, but the hotel not having enough room sent the coach on to the outskirts of the town. There our pair found the Novota Avisse, a beautiful hotel set back off the road, but unfortunately dinner was over and our travellers had to go to the bar in the basement. There they could order the most delightful toasted sandwiches, with one snag — they took so long to make, or was there method in their madness? Certainly after that extra glass of wine they drank they waited happily.

The next day the coach set off for Strasbourg, once again a lovely city. Tall, slim houses with wrought iron balconies — houses with history, no Coventry, Liverpool, Plymouth or London here. Arriving at the beautiful Parliament building, we were shown up to a meeting room, where after questions and discussion, they were joined by several English Euro MPs who welcomed them and also answered their questions. The group then moved on, and over to the Town Hall where the Mayor gave them a small reception. The Salon was really lovely, with dark red velvet curtains at beautifully shaped windows, wall tapestries, chandeliers, and once again we were offered lovely food and wine. There were six unemployed young boys and girls from Kirkcaldy in

Scotland, who were on an exchange visit and presented a plaque from their town. At 2 pm the group returned to the Parliament building where on the patio a young German band was playing. The music set feet tapping and soon a little group of ladies started to dance, a cross between a sway and a gentle kick to the side — the Strasbourg Saunter perhaps? Television cameras left the band and centred on the dancing troupe, everyone was smiling, everyone was happy, you cannot be at war linking arms and moving gently to the music. At last it was time to go in, Parliament was under way as quiet as mice, finger on lips they crept in to their seats in the gallery. Every seat had a pair of light weight (very comfortable) earphones, and a dial of 1–9 languages, plus a volume control. Down below in a big circle sat the European Parliament, their long desks are brown, the fittings magenta, and the armchairs are blue. Each position has a phone, a mike, and a reading desk. Voting on the agenda, the chairman took a show of hands and wherever the result was close a card vote would be called for. Each MP has two slots on his desk, one FOR, one AGAINST; each MP makes his choice and within seconds by pressing the card into the slot, the result is computerised and shown on two screens. A small one in front of the Chairman and a large one for Parliament and Visitors to see. What a lot of time and patience we would save if we could have that system at Congress. Visitors can only stay about an hour, for there is always a great demand to visit. That evening they had a tour of Strasbourg and learned a little of its history. The next day the coach returned them to Luxembourg where they visited the Palace of Justice and the European Bank. This they liked best of all but

it is too complicated to put in a simple report, however both Isobel and Edna are willing to talk about their experiences and visit to the E.E.C.

E. Davey

Sec: Moreton, Wirral Guild

HELP PLEASE

Cheshunt Guild asks would Guilds please write to The Rt. Hon. Alfred Morris, who is the Minister for the Disabled, to help him in his campaign to get more buses capable of taking a wheelchair. Their secretary says she understands they do have some up in the north with tail lifts, and Alf is trying to get some in the south. He has been pressing the Secretary of State for Transport on the need for this kind of help for the disabled, and would appreciate any help he can get. Doris has to push her husband in a chair and distance is very limited, she says. If only she could take him to see a few different parks or to the shops, it would be such a treat for him. We probably all know of people who could do with a chance to move around a bit more in wheelchairs, so please help.

Doris Hajdu

Sec: Cheshunt Guild

HUMOUR

A few years ago on our way to the coast, we pulled into the car park at Kings Lynn. We wanted to look at the new shopping centre and visit the toilets. We found the shopping centre but the new toilets were locked, obviously not to be used on Sundays, so we looked round the bus station, surely there must be some here. If there were we could not find them and there was no-one to ask.

Suddenly my sister said "There's a little old lady, she looks like a native let's ask her." She shook her head sadly as we asked her, a bewildered expression on her face, as she replied "My dears, I have lived here all my life and they used to be where I am standing, but where they have taken them to since they built that new Bus Station I have never been able to find out. I have hunted everywhere but I cannot find them." This reply was nearly too much for my sister but luckily my husband came up then saying he had found a pub where we could have lunch and visit the toilet, but my sister was laughing so much she only just made it.

For the rest of that holiday wherever we went she would say, "Have they taken the toilets away here do you think?", and we had to laugh.

M.V.A.

HOLIDAY IN HUNGARY

Mrs Rita Weiss, a member of the Member Relations Committee, London Region CRS is arranging a Co-operative Holiday in Hungary, from July 27th to August 10th. The first week will be in Budapest and the second will be in Lake Balaton. Half board the first week, full board the second. The cost will be £450,

and will include five free trips, free insurance and free visa. An interpreter will be available and it is anticipated there will be meetings with co-operators. There are a few places available and if you would like more information write to Mrs Rita Weiss, 40 Brightwell Avenue, Westcliffe on Sea, Essex, S50 9EE, or phone 0702-348161.

ST MARKS CO-OPERATIVE GUILD SONG

Tune: Darkeis

(Composed by a nearly blind gentleman, who, with his father, regularly entertain St Marks Guild on the piano and banjo.)

Chorus

Old Girls, Young Girls, everybody come
Join the Co-op Ladies Guild, and make yourself at home,
Bring along your knitting, come in and close the door,
And I'll tell you things about the Guild, you've never heard before.

A report on last year's A.G.M. I'm sure you'd like to hear,
The Treasurer and Chairman were returned for one more year.
The Assistant Secretary, Mrs Herring, had to go,
How Mrs Braddock got the job, perhaps we'll never know.

There's Co-op ladies contemplating engineering jobs,
Ever since the night we had a talk by Mr Hobbs.
Said Mrs Boone, we'll make some cash if members learn the skills,
Mrs Williams on the capstan, Mrs Braddock on the drills.

Mrs Peacey is an auctioneer of very great renown,
At Sotherby's and Christy's and at Co-op's round the town.
To help Sue Ryder members brought some articles along,
Now then, how much am I bid; going, going, gone!

We're going on an outing, one Monday night in June,
Paid for out of Co-op funds, doled out by Mrs Boone.
The Landlord out at Chasely has to order extra beer,
He'll tell his staff to "Man the pumps, they drank us dry last year!"

There's an evening for them members what was born in London town,
At the Lolly on the Johnny, we will drink some rosey down.
It's just along the Frog and Toad and up the Apples and Pears,
Put on your Sunday Whistle and Flute, me old china, see you there.

You've heard about our exploits at the Wellesley Hotel,
Where next year's dinner will be held, as yet we cannot tell.
If the Co-op get the restaurant, up there we shall encamp,
We must make sure to choose the week when they give double stamps!

EXTRACT FROM ST MARKS GUILD MAGAZINE 1975

OUR HERITAGE

My first recollection as a small child was being given a tiny piece of ground and some packets of seed and being told how flowers would grow if I planted them. What joy when they appeared!

I have never lost the wonder of wandering along a country lane and seeing masses of wild flowers. It would be such a pity if future generations were denied this pleasure.

Our Cotswolds are very beautiful and overseas visitors come to see our historic towns and to admire the magnificent views when enjoying walks in the countryside. They come to see houses of character not row upon row of 'rabbit hutches.'

In these days of rising food prices, surely it is stupid to allow property developers to destroy our farms and orchards.

Disused industrial eyesores could be cleared by unemployed men and boys and the ground utilised for building, rather than encroach still further upon our remaining countryside. Large slices of land have already been taken over for motorways and, in some cases, villages cut in half.

Rights of Way are being lost because we are too lazy to do anything about it. Even the wild flowers along grass verges are being destroyed by the indiscriminate use of insecticides. Should we not call a halt and take stock!

(Since this was written, acre upon acre of lovely countryside have been lost here and farmers are losing heart with the restrictions from the Common Market etc.)

DREAMS DO COME TRUE

Mine did, and quite unexpectedly too, and I had to move fast when the occasion arrived.

Ever since just after the war, and when I had seen in London the play "Seagulls over Sorrento" I had dreamed of visiting Sorrento. Happily I would sing the theme song "Come back to Sorrento" and I would vow that one day I would. I often looked through travel brochures but could never manage the cost of a visit as it was far too much for me. Eventually my husband and I saved up and booked for a visit (not to Sorrento) but to a then new resort, Salou, in Spain. Remembering it was a few years ago, it cost us £30 each for a 10 day visit. We were both very excited and looked forward to our holiday abroad. We had our currency changed into Pesetas, our passports ready, and had even received the air tickets. The day before we were due to leave came the blow! The phone rang and a voice from the travel agency informed me that our trip was off. He said the hotel had not been finished yet, and although they had anticipated this, they could not manage to get us another hotel. I was shattered! But we've the air tickets and everything! The voice went on, "we are very sorry about all this Madam, and would you please look at your brochure and see if there is anywhere you would like to go, and if available we will get you booked up there." I sat down, and looked at my husband and for a moment neither of us moved. Eventually we picked up the brochure and began to look through the pages until there, on almost the last page, was Sorrento! I could not believe it, so without looking any further we rushed off to the travel agent. When we arrived I asked if he had meant ANYWHERE in

the brochure and he replied "Yes of course — except U.S.A." I then turned to the page of Sorrento and asked if we could go there. He replied that providing there were vacancies, it would be perfectly O.K. We waited as patiently as we could until he came back, assuring us that everything had been fixed up, and we could go to Sorrento. We walked home on air, and back home took another look at the brochure, and then my husband pointed out that the holiday was for 14 days, not 10 as before, and the price was £86, each not £30 like our own holiday. I felt as if the bottom had dropped out of my world. Then rushing to the phone I once again dialled the travel agent, explaining our problem. He laughed, "That doesn't matter at all," he said, "I said anywhere and I meant just that!" I thanked him and turning to my husband, told him the good news. We gave a little dance right there, and began once again planning our wonderful holiday.

Suddenly I remembered that we would need Lira now, not Pesetas. Well with everything in order at last we were on our way, in the plane, now circling over the Bay of Naples, the most beautiful bay in the world. We circled a few times before we landed, but I'm afraid I did not mind a scrap.

I was almost there, "Sorrento My Dream". Eventually we went by coach, reaching Sorrento about 4 o'clock, and were taken to our hotel. After unpacking and a beautifully served dinner, we went out for our first stroll. Our hotel was on a crest of a hill, and as we walked down, we could see those rugged rocks, that I had so long dreamed about. It was not

long before we were standing by the safety rails which enclosed a glorious park, full of the most beautiful flowers I had ever seen. Breathing the scent of these flowers, I looked out at the scene below. The seagulls were swooping and circling just as I had always imagined. I felt too full up for words, and inwardly thanked God, for giving me such happiness. To add to all this, we heard someone whistling "Come back to Sorrento" my favourite song from the show I had seen all those years ago.

What a marvellous time we had, seeing so many things that without this dream-holiday we would never have seen. We wandered the length and breadth of this lovely place, sometimes by the waterside, sometimes on top of the cliffs, where friendly, tiny green lizards rushed here and there. With breathless delight we visited Capri, and marvelled from the top of a cliff at millionaires yachts tossing merrily in the bluest sea I had ever seen. I noticed with delight, that there was a gorgeous gold one, that caught the sun as it moved. Blue skies, the warmth of the sun, who could wish for more? A visit to Amalfi was one of the biggest thrills I had ever had and Pompeii has to be seen to be believed, while Vesuvius some 4,000 ft above the bay of Naples rather gave me the shivers, and I was glad to get back to the coach, and once again walk the streets of beautiful Sorrento. Yes, my dream came true, and is as fresh in my mind today, as it was when I could mingle with the scent of the trees, the sea and sunshine, and the happy people I met in Sorrento.

Rose Dowles, Corringham Guild

RECIPES

Vegetarian Fruit Loaf

- 1 Breakfast cup Bran
- 1 Breakfast cup Milk
- 1 Breakfast cup Sugar
- 1 Breakfast cup Mixed Dried Fruit
or Dates and Walnuts

Mix overnight in bowl and leave till morning. Then add 1 Breakfast cup of S.R. flour and one egg. Mix together and put (wet) mixture into two lb tins, well greased and lined on bottom. Cook in oven Gas mark D or No 4, for three quarters to one hour.

Lemon Curd

- 2 Lemons
- 2 Eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$ lb Sugar
- 6 oz Butter

Put sugar and butter in pan on low gas. Stir occasionally till melted, add beaten eggs, juice of lemons and fine grated rind. Stir till it thickens, approx 30 minutes. Put into warmed jars. Makes $1\frac{3}{4}$ to 2lbs depending on size and juice of lemons.

Mrs R.W. Laycock
Scarborough Guild

A MINI GUILD MEMBER

Lilian Jones of Slough has sent me a Mini Guild Member, just 11 cm high. In Co-op blue felt with her own shopping bag she is delightful, and has a place in my china cabinet, the only safe place from my granddaughters' hands. Just the thing for you to make for Bazaars; Lilian and I have sorted out a leaflet for you to try, and it is available for 10p from Head Office. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope. All money will go to the Project.
(ED)

TIPS AND TOPS

**Mrs J. Welling, Abbots Langley
District Chairman Hertfordshire**

1. An average sized lemon gives 3 table-spoons of juice. An orange yields about 5 tablespoons of juice.
2. Use left over hot cross buns to make a delicious bread and butter pudding.
3. When preparing a jelly, make it up to 1 pint with ice cubes to speed up the setting process.
4. Left over nuts from Christmas — grate and mix together, roll into soft cheese for snack nibbles or cheese and wine parties.

Chop them up and place on greased paper, roll sponge cake, with butter creamed sides, like a wheel into nuts.

When making a tea loaf, place whole nuts on top just before baking. When cool warm 2 tablespoons of honey and pour over top. Leave to cool before serving.

HINTS FOR ALL

Mrs A Wood, Manor Guild Sheffield

If zips are hard to move up and down, rub gently with a lead pencil.

You can get the juice from a lemon more easily if you put the lemon in a warm oven for a few minutes.

Crisp a wilting lettuce by opening and leaving in ICED water.

POETRY

THE BIRTH OF MORETON GUILD

With a notice in the paper, a meeting was convened.
Then guidance on procedure, and practical support
Gave us the motivation to start our little Club.
We found accommodation, and committee members sought.
With friendships made
And interests shared,
Speakers spoke
We understood?
Dancers danced.
Callers called:
Craftsmen crafted:
Teas were served:
And loving, caring hands outstretched.
So as we grow in number, we grow in stature too.
Instead of being parochial, we take a wider view.
Are we then set to co-operate, on experience to build
To grasp the torch from older hands, and NOW become a GUILD.

Isobel Hancock (Chairman)

OUR CENTENARY TREE

The first Day of Spring dawned cold and grey,
The day that we chose to plant our Tree,
In a blizzard we solidly assembled,
To mark the Guild's Centenary.

One hundred years ago, the Guild was founded,
By women who fought for the right to be free.
We hope that the tree that was planted today
Will flourish for everyone to see.

President Mr Twigg did the planting,
A task he performed with great pleasure
We then all enjoyed our afternoon tea,
It was truly a day we will treasure.

Let us now look ahead to the future
And with our Rainbow Flag unfurled,
With hope and true co-operation
We'll see a free, united World.

Marjory Hirst, Manor Guild, Sheffield

The Pebble in the Lake

Casting its shadow upon the Lake
The lofty mountain in sombre mood
Majestic like Kings' in its wake
The gentle bliss of solitude.
The quietness — the mystic spell
Over the water calm and still
In such serenity do we dwell
With blissful fantasies until
A pebble into the lake is cast,
And from the ripples therein made
The ever widening circles spread
To disappear within the shade
Until at length they reach the shore
As with our fantasies and dreams
They cannot last for evermore,
But fade away like fairy schemes.
Then to grim reality we must turn
And grasp from life what we might take
With all the wisdom one could ever learn
Written in the circles of the lake.

Ida Bailey

THE GUILD OF NORMAN PLACE

Congratulations, you are nine today.
A credit to you all, it is time to say.
You've created a guild by sheer hard graft
And made it a pleasure, by your art, skill and craft.
You've thought of others whose path has been tough,
And you've always been willing to give more than enough.
I've admired your spirit from your very first start,
And I pay you a tribute to your courage and heart.
Good Luck for the future and more strength to your arm.
Long may you continue with your appeal and charm.

V.L.J.

A Guildswoman's Husband's Tribute

WOKING BRANCH

BRITISH PENSIONERS ACTION ASSOCIATION

Three years ago, when the R.A.C.S. Political Purposes Committee organised a petition to the Government for the abolition of standing charges on gas, electricity and telephones for pensioners, I helped to obtain signatures in Woking Co-op Superstore. This was the beginning of my involvement with the British Pensioners and Trade Unions Action Association.

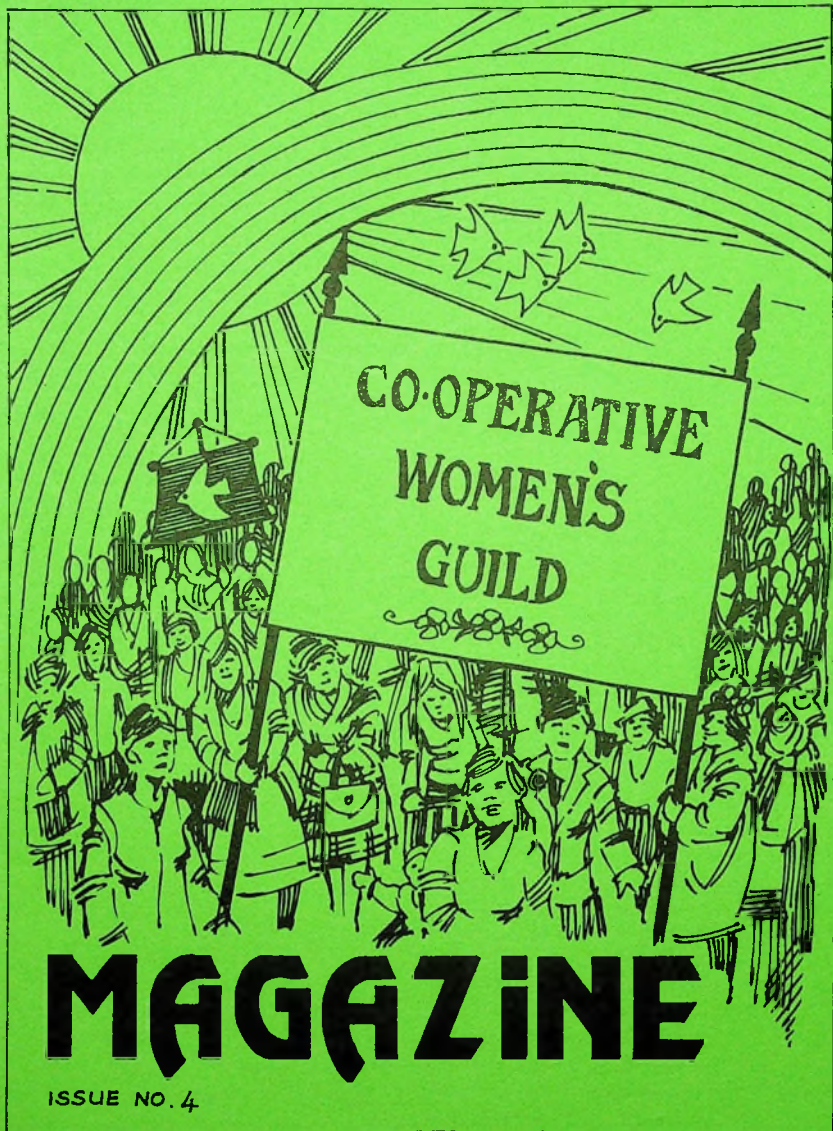
On the day the petition was delivered to 10 Downing Street, a reception was held at G.L.C. County Hall and with other members of Woking Labour Party I met Fred Baker M.B.E., the General Secretary of the B.P.T.U.A.A. who suggested we try to form a branch of the association in Woking. Three months later with the help of local newspapers and Sheerwater Community Association from whom we hired the hall, we were sufficiently organised to hold our inaugural meeting and Woking Branch B.P.T.U.A.A. was in being. We were surprised at the response from local pensioners as over 150 attended and it was obvious that there was a need for the association in 'affluent' Surrey after all.

Since then I have been Secretary of Woking Branch and have helped to build up a very active and thriving organisation not only engaged in campaigning for a 'fair deal' for pensioners nationally but also on local issues as well, especially in the cause of transport concessions and services. We organise fund-raising activities and apart from the hard work involved we are all enriched by the friendships we have made. Several of our Guild members are also in the pensioners group.

Pensioners are having a very raw deal at present, this year the increase for a married couple is £2.80 — making the pension £57.30 per week. Compared with other European countries there is only one other country worse off than the U.K., the others are very much better off as pensioners. We feel things could be even worse if we do not fight for our rights and in Woking we have made sure that our voice is heard by contacting our M.P., the local councils and newspapers etc. We also attend meetings and lobbies in London where we meet pensioners from all over the country and are encouraged by the growth of the Pensioners' Movement and the work of the Pensioners' Convention. There are over 9 million pensioners in this country and as the organisation develops the Government will have to listen.

The National Pensioners' Convention are now organising a new petition which will be presented to the Government early next year concerning the present situation of state retirement pensions, the increasingly heavy burden of fuel costs and the erosion of public transport, I would ask all Guild members to collect as many signatures as they can on this. Anyone over 18 years old can sign, we hope to collect a million signatures. Forms can be obtained from National Pensioners' Convention Steering Committee, c/o Congress House, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3LS.

Doreen Scott
Woking Co-op Guild



MAGAZINE

ISSUE NO. 4

HELLO GUILDSWOMEN,

Some of you will have had your holidays by the time this reaches you, some will still be on holiday and others will be looking forward to a late holiday, but whichever it is for you, I hope it will be an enjoyable one. We have two pieces of special news for you in this issue, a photo and information about our new National Officer, Miss Diane Paskin, and news of an honour for one of our Guildswomen, Mrs Norah Willis. I am sure you will find both of them very interesting.

I have received a letter asking me to print it as a "Letter to the Editor", and this I am happy to do. It is obvious that this Guild has discussed the magazine very thoroughly and reached certain conclusions, and want the magazine to be a success. I have replied to the Guild giving them my answers to their points of view, and I am sure they will be interested in your views too. In all fairness to other members who have written to me, I must say that they all enjoy reading it very much. A delegate at Congress was found laughing to herself while reading it, and on being asked what was so funny she replied, read page six. It made me chuckle too. I love reading your poems, and wish we could make a book of them.

Hope you enjoy making your mincemeat, the recipe was worth waiting for.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Members of Hastings Guild are very anxious that the Magazine should be a success. They see it as something of interest to members and in addition as a magazine which can be offered to non-member friends and acquaintances to introduce them to the Guild. In other words the magazine could be a good recruiting weapon. We have read and discussed the first two issues with these points in mind. We do not think that in the present style the magazine will fulfil this need. We suggest a wider approach is needed — short, lively articles on other aspects of co-operation. Worker's Co-

operatives started up in our own country — International Co-operative projects abroad — stories of co-operators abroad or news of the efforts of some of the Woodcraft groups. Some attention must be paid to topical subjects too. Of course reports of special Branch efforts need to be included as well as some domestic items — knitting or needlework patterns or the occasional recipe. We trust this letter will provoke comments and constructive suggestions from other branches.

Doris Bootman
Secretary Hastings Branch

My comments in the next issue. Editor.

OUR NEW NATIONAL OFFICER

The National Executive of the Co-operative Women's Guild have appointed a National Officer, and she takes up her post in mid July. Her name is Diane Paskin and she lives in Ipswich, Suffolk. She has been a guildswoman for just over four years and her interest in the CWG was kindled when she moved to Ipswich from the West Midlands. (There has now been an invasion to Suffolk by the Paskin family — her parents and sister now live in Ipswich.)

Diane knows that the task before her is not going to be easy, but she is confident that the Co-operative Women's Guild has a future and sees her long-term objective as securing the path towards future growth. Diane is a member of Ipswich Co-operative Young Women, and also serves on the District committee, she had also just been elected on the South Eastern Section, a post she will now have to resign. She is a member of Ipswich Co-operative Society Member Education Committee, and she is convinced that her Society is successful because it still pays dividends. We hear her Society is justly proud of her appointment and willing to give her all the support they can. Among her other interests in which she is involved is her local branch of the United Nations Association, and she is Secretary of the Overseas Missions for the Alan Road Methodist Church. She lives alone but says she still has a family, two cats, four hens, and four muscovy ducks. At the time of telling me this she also had a dog Tina, but because of the commitments of her new post is presently looking for another home for Tina, who needs to be with people and it is in her interest that she goes to a new home.



Diane relaxes by visiting preserved Steam Railways, playing the piano (badly) and watching sport — any sort, and enjoys reading when she can find the time. She hopes that in time she will be able to visit all of the guilds, and she would also like to thank everyone who has sent her congratulations, they are much appreciated.

A young lady full of enthusiasm and daring to go, backed by our Young Guildswomen, we wish you all the luck we can Diane, and all the help we can give to see you succeed in promoting the future of the Guild.

Weddington Guild would like to share this piece of philosophy with you which is so much enjoyed by them.

He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool, shun him.
He who knows not and knows that he knows not is humble, teach him.
He who knows and knows not that he knows is asleep, wake him.
He who knows and knows that he knows is a wise man, follow him.

E. Wilkinson, Weddington Guild

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT 1985—6

Mrs Eunice Stump who represents the Mid Southern Section on the NEC was elected National Vice President at Congress at Weston Super Mare. Eunice lives in Abingdon on Thames, is married and has a son and two daughters, who are grown up and married. Grandmother she tells us to a boy and two girls, and loves showing us their photographs. She has been a member of Abingdon Guild for sixteen years and served on her District and Sectional Councils, and is also a member of Oxford Education Committee.

Eunice has worked in catering for 25 years, and the NEC has benefitted during her term of office from her catering expertise, in the meals she has prepared for us on the occasions it has been necessary to stay overnight.

Guilding has been one of the loves of her life, and she has been a member of the Trefoil Guild for 30 years.



Her hobbies include travelling, reading, bowling and she is now taking up music and typing lessons. Her year of office is going to be a very busy one. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her a very happy year as our National Vice President.

CONGRATULATIONS — AN HONOUR FOR THE GUILD

Congratulations to Norah Willis JP, who has been elected President of the I.C.A. Women's Committee, the first time that the Chairmanship has been held by the United Kingdom. Under the new rules of the International Co-operative Alliance, Norah as President of a specialist committee will have an automatic seat on the Central Committee of the I.C.A., which will strengthen the United Kingdom delegation and increase the overall number of women on this committee. There was great excitement in the NEC meeting when she called in to tell us, undoubtedly it is an honour for the Co-operative Women's Guild as well that one of its members has received this honour. It comes at a time when a number of organisations are celebrating the end of the

Decade for Women, and we believe the beginning of the upsurge of our Guild. A great achievement Norah and we all join in sending you our best wishes for your future role, and hope you have a happy and successful term in office.

Vice-President (1) Ulla Jonsdotter, Sweden
Vice-President (2)

Eugenia Vaslyukhina, USSR
Bulgaria — Quidmila Alpieve
Czechoslovakia — Dagmar Laskovkova
Malaysia — Ramani Guresamy
Israel — Ada Gilan
Kenya — Bernadette Wanyonyi
Poland — Maria Plucenska.

These are the members of the Executive of the ICA Women's Committee, and all have been elected for four years until 1989.

Around the Branches

ENFIELD GUILD CELEBRATES ITS 90th BIRTHDAY

The colourful decorated tables set for the 90th Birthday of Enfield Central Guild, made a very welcoming sight for members and guests as they arrived. The meal was prepared by the Guild committee and willing helpers. Special Guests were Mrs N. Boudier, President of Enfield and St Albans Society, Chief Executive Officer Mr A.S. Balfour and his wife, Mrs M.V. Aldous, Guild National Executive, Mr A Postles, Board of Management and his wife, Mr J Bryant, Education Secretary (Lea Valley), education members Mrs M. Speller and Mrs O. Brooks, Mrs J. Bond, political executive and guild members from B.H.P., Cheshunt, Green St., Hoddesdon, and Welwyn Garden City.

In welcoming members and guests Mrs F. Frost (Guild Chairman) said "This was a very important occasion in the life of our Central Guild. We value the support of our members and the E. & S.A. Co-op-

erative Society in all departments. The future of the Guild and the Co-operative Movement depends on that one word 'Co-operation', indeed the world would be a much better place if there was more co-operation between all peoples of the world." Greetings and congratulations came by letter from Mrs V. Chambers, Mrs A. King and Mrs L. Nevols, retired Guild members unable to be present. An honoured guest was Mrs B. Verdun, ex-Guild Chairman who was given a warm welcome.

Friends joined us for the evening of dancing to Norman Davies Music, and during the interval for refreshments, a beautiful Birthday Cake presented by the E. & S.A. Society was wheeled round by Mrs M. Russel for all to see, and was cut and served with a glass of sherry. Mrs F. Frost proposed a toast "To Central Guild, long may it continue."

Mrs A. Chadwick (Guild Secretary)

Mrs Julia Meadows, our oldest member, recently celebrated her 90th birthday. It happened that the day before was our branch meeting, so we decided to give her a surprise birthday party. Every member of our guild attended this great occasion. The buffet tea and iced birthday cake were all prepared by members; we could only put one candle on the cake but this was lit and blown out by our birthday girl. Julia's health was drunk with a glass of sherry, and a rendering of 'Happy Birthday' by members, who also presented her with a pink silk floral arrangement and a birthday card signed by all members. Some of her friends gave her individual gifts. Cameras clicked as many photographs were taken by our chairman

and Julia's daughter. Our three tea ladies made a welcome cup of tea to end a very enjoyable occasion. Mrs Meadows thanked all members for her special afternoon, and said that we had a very friendly, caring guild. This remarkable lady supports all meetings, rallies and outings; as she is unable to walk far she hires a car to bring her to meetings and when we have outings her daughter, also a member, brings her wheelchair so that she can push her about. She had a miraculous escape in an accident, so we all say, "Well done" to a very cheerful and active member and look forward to helping her celebrate her next milestone.

**Eileen Matless,
Secretary Norwich Central Guild**

South Staffs District entertained Mrs G. Wood in her last month of office as National President. She spoke to them on "The Guild", and first round entries for National Contests were judged. Members then enjoyed tea and scones. They also hosted the South Midland Section AGM in the Kenmarl Ballroom. The National President chaired both morning and afternoon sessions and guests at the afternoon meeting included the President of the West Midland Co-operative Society.

A party was held to celebrate the 21st Birthday of the Wednesfield Guild. Guests included Board members of the West Midland Co-operative Society Member Relations Committee and members of other branches in the South Staffs District, as well as three founder members. They are now all busy knitting blankets and jumpers to send to Ethiopia.

S. Nixon, Secretary

Members of the Cheshunt Co-operative Women's Guild had their own way of celebrating V.E. Day. They decorated their hall with posters as printed during the war, and members brought along their own mementoes, which included a ration book, an embroidered tea cloth of the British Isles at War, which included balloons etc., a piece of material from a blouse made from linen maps which were not rationed, the exact food ration as at 1945 and lots of photographs of members that were in the Forces, i.e., A.T.S., W.R.A.F. and Land Army. Husbands were not left out and kindly sent along their medals which included the D.F.C. and lots of propaganda leaflets that the Germans dropped on our troops.

The meeting ended with members drinking to another 40 years of Peace.

D. Hajdu
Secretary Cheshunt Guild

Edna Soult, Mansfield District Secretary writes: One of the nicest things happened to me this week; after 10 years of hard work as District secretary, we had an executive meeting of the Mansfield and District Council of the Co-operative Women's Guild, where items of interest, Congress, Affiliation Fees, the new National Officer and officials at Head Office were discussed. Present on this occasion were Mrs M. Sirs, National President, and Mrs E. Stump, National Vice President. Then to my surprise I was presented with a lovely silver cake knife, by Mrs D. Grice, President of Mansfield District (to be engraved), Mrs E. Marshall, President of Portland Guild, gave me a lovely orchid in a box, and there also was a very old Guild friend Mrs D. Ward. Then we all sat down to a very nice tea

which the Greater Nottingham Society Manager (not forgetting Mrs Murphy, manageress) provided, allowing us to make our own sandwiches, etc., while they provided the tea. We had a raffle and time passed very quickly.

At 6.00 pm the Greater Nottingham Society opened its doors of the 1st store to, I would say, hundreds of customers, giving away champagne every half hour, plus a free raffle. The first phase of the Greater Nottingham Society was now well on its way, and I must say it is a great improvement on the old look Mansfield store. The next three hours were spent looking at a Fashion Show, and the beautiful things in the new store. A very good afternoon was spent by all Guildswomen, and was one I shall remember for a long time.



A tribute was paid to Mrs Olive Davies in the Brighton Society News, and Don Ranger has very kindly sent me a photograph that was taken recently showing Mrs Davies cutting a cake. She joined the Women's Co-operative Guild in 1928 and was elected to her local Education Committee in August 1930 and was part-time Secretary for eight years until in 1944, Watford Society appointed her their first full-time Education Secretary. When she retired 25 years ago, she moved to Sussex, where she reformed the Woodcraft Groups in the Brighton Society area, the first being at East Hoathly, but after moving to Lancing, she became Sussex District Women's Guild Secretary, and despite bad weather and poor public transport helped to establish new branches and stimulate general interest — particularly in a series of very successful Christmas Bazaars.

Mrs D. Steed,
Secretary Worthing Guild

Greetings to all members of the C.W.G. from our small Guild here in Chester. How's this for a motto for us all: "If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours". Thanks Chester for all your good wishes, and I'm glad you find the magazine a "Very good read". (Editor.)

Broad Street Branch held a successful Free Ploughman's Lunch to celebrate International Week. All branches in the District received an invitation and though many were committed elsewhere, Elm Park Guild took part. Special visitors were Mr Ray Manning from M.R. Ctte and District Secretary. Thanks go to our Chairman and Committee who organised it all and the Disco that followed. It was very enjoyable and members brought along raffle prizes which realised £5 for Branch Funds, and it was agreed to give a small amount to sick members who were unable to attend.

"Absent-minded vicar gave Diamond Couple below-par start," read the headlines in the Dorset Evening Echo, when George and Edith Symes received flowers from the Mayor and Mayoress of Weymouth, Mr and Mrs Eric Webb, to mark their Diamond Wedding. For one long hour in 1925 the couple thought their married life would never begin, let alone survive 60 years, when the vicar forgot to turn up at the church. The absent-minded clergyman was eventually located in the middle of a round of golf and arrived at St John's Church, Weymouth, where, mud-stained and dishevelled, he carried out the service. Sixty years of marriage followed that slightly off-beat start, and George and Edith, who live in Ashton Road, now have a daughter and three grandchildren. Mrs Symes was a President of Weymouth Co-operative Women's Guild and for 22 years the organiser of the Guild's Drama Group. They both believe that a lot of give and take has contributed to 60 years of successful marriage. Mrs Symes is the eldest of 10 children, all living, and two of her sisters also attend Weymouth Guild. Her mother lived to be over a hundred years of age.

**Beverly Gillam,
Secretary Weymouth Guild**

Three members of Enfield Central Branch paid a visit to the St Joseph's Hospice in Hackney. Frances Frost, Chairman, Alice Chadwick, Secretary and Helen Lay, Assistant Secretary, were shown round by the matron and were greatly impressed by what they saw. They presented the Hospice with nine knitted blankets on behalf of the Guild.

The Balby Branch of the Co-operative Women's Guild which was formed in 1935 celebrated their Golden Jubilee on Monday March 25th. It was a day to remember which was very successful with thirty members present and officials of the National Executive and Yorkshire Section as guests.

Mr Jepson, the Education Officer of the CRS, presented a gold-plated award to the President in commemoration of fifty years guild work which was a pleasant surprise and the first of its kind awarded to a Guild Branch. After a very pleasant tea the members and guests were entertained by Miss T. Anderson of the YWCA who sang ballads and also had everyone joining in a sing-a-long.

Dulcie Burdis, Balby Branch

Thornton Heath Guild were conducted on a tour of the Palace of Westminster by the Baroness Fisher earlier this year. On entering by the Norman Arch we were thoroughly screened, a reminder of the perils of public office. We enjoyed the splendour of the 19th century building designed by Charles Barry and his collaborator A.W. Pugin. The Baroness was most illuminating on the differing aspects of the procedures in both Houses and we were able to see a few of the most important documents in the land, including the Magna Carta and the Bill of Rights. It was interesting to be told by her Ladyship that ours is the only Parliamentary building in the world where citizens can enter the Lobby without an appointment and ask to talk to their M.P. We are grateful to the Baroness for taking time from a crowded schedule to conduct us personally.

**Mrs B.M. Atkinson, President
Thornton Heath Guild**

SPRINGHOUSE CO-OPERATIVE YOUNG WIVES GUILD



Every year Corringham has a Carnival and we entered this year for the second time. After deciding on a theme we realised that it was the 20th anniversary of the inauguration of the S.C.Y.W. Guild, and it was unanimously agreed to set it in the twenties. Marguerites are our Section's flower emblem and they were individually hand made from cardboard, polystyrene and toilet paper for the yellow centres and plenty of glue. As it was our birthday, well! why not a birthday cake? Mrs June Shoulder offered to make it and she, and husband Bill, made a very fine job of it. The cake was three tiers tall and a picnic table was used under the first tier as a base because we thought it might topple off. The vehicle was obtained through Mrs Valerie Merrit and husband Jim for the second time, and Jim also drove the vehicle for us. Valerie's daughter involved her boyfriend who really made the whole thing swing along with his nineteen-twenties music.

Co-operation was used throughout the whole operation and when May Bank Holiday arrived, many helpful members got up at the crack of dawn to assemble the whole lot on the 44ft vehicle. Of course the rain didn't help but the members and their husbands battled on. Plants were also donated to give the parlour look and all the members dressed the part ideally as you can see in the photographs.

(I wish you could see the colour version they sent me as well. It's smashing. Ed.)

A fantastic time was had by all and we danced and charlestoned from Stanford le Hope to Corringham.

Of course the most important thing was that we won 1st Prize again and so hold the Cup for another year. Well done Springhouse and I will see that the photograph that Julia's husband walked so far in the rain to get is published.

Julia Wild
Springhouse Young Women's Guild

COUNCIL OR CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING

It is generally accepted that the Conservatives won the last General Election on the issue of home ownership, and it raises a query in ordinary people's minds as to how the Labour Party will see this issue in future. Large numbers of people took advantage of the discount off the price of Council Houses. Were they wrong? Are the young families wrong who are hoping to buy their Council house in the future. Looking round one sees it is not just the young or middle-aged that took that advantage, but among them were those who fought in the last war, came home to find no houses available to rent or buy even if they could have found a deposit and mortgage. They put down their names on a Council list and lived with in-laws or in rented furnished rooms and dilapidated houses for which they paid very high rents in those days and waited!! No two Local Authority Housing Committees worked in the same way, and most people waited six to seven years before being allocated a house, in the London area and larger cities it took even longer. Most young people had a family by the time their Council house "arrived", and with that and the high rents they'd been paying, they had no chance to save a deposit for a house of their own. It will be seen that this was a chance not to be missed, they must have bought that house over and over again in rent, and those who had spent money on their homes to improve them over the years (and there were many) now had a chance with their families grown up to realise their dream of owning their home, and for some it meant investing their redundancy pay. Can you blame them?

On the other side, there is still a high figure of people wanting rented homes, single people, childless couples, unemployed, people sharing homes, those trapped in bedsitters, hotels or other forms of temporary shelter. Between 1979 and 1983 house building fell to its lowest peace-time level since the 1920's. Housing stock is decaying faster than it is being improved, and the lengthening queues depict the very bad housing record of the Thatcher government. To reverse the decision to sell Council houses would not help as the people already living in them need homes too, and could not afford the higher price asked for by private housing. How does Labour stand on this Housing Issue? People have shown they want to own their homes, to deprive them of the opportunity will lose the Labour Party many more votes at the next General Election. On the other hand home ownership leaves out the very poor, the old, the sick, and single families. What is the alternative? Is it not time for the Co-operative Movement to press the Labour Party for Co-operative Housing. Could they not consider as a government to provide capital for Housing Co-operatives. I like the idea of areas on estates with houses, bungalows of the two or three bedroom type, with elected committees controlling them. People wanting to own their own house purchasing from the Committee, and when moving, selling back to the Co-operatives with safeguards on capital spent on the property. This would allow houses to be purchased without the question of huge profits being made. Thus the tenants and owners control their own lives, being protected from greedy landowners and profiteers.

Some Labour controlled Councils are extremely biased against house ownership, even though some councillors do own their own homes. Reforms and more up to date thinking of people's needs and wishes are more than overdue. Why are so many people without a proper home? Why does the Government deny the Councils the freedom to meet their needs? Why cannot tenants have the right to choose where they want to live, and take part in the planning of houses? Why can't

Sylvia and Margaret carry on with the good work

Hot on the heels of Congress where Sylvia retired from the NEC, I received a letter telling me that Mrs Sylvia Paine was installed as the new Chairman of Bath Standing Conference of Women's Organisations. The need for women to work together, share problems, and maintain an interest in the affairs of the city, was emphasised by Sylvia in her inaugural address. She takes over from Mrs M. Cheshire, Central United Reformed Church Women's Guild, and we wish her a happy and rewarding term of office.

Mrs Margaret O'Donnell was Congress President when Warrington and District staged a Regional Mock Congress, and more than 120 delegates from all over the old county of Lancashire attended. The Congress condemned the Government's lack of initiative in tracking down drug dealers, for not providing an adequate burial grant, closing sub-post offices. Mrs Eva Angle was Chairman of Standing Orders, and guests of honour included Mrs G. Woods former National President, Mr W. Leathwood, President of the Warrington Co-operative Society and Mr Harry Mather Chairman of the Society's Education Group.

Eva Angle, Sectional Secretary

women have more say in the planning of homes, they know what they want in their kitchens especially? We need to press the Labour Party to bring together somehow the council tenants, home owners, building and housing workers and politicians for new thinking, and the first thing a new Labour government must do is allow Councils to spend the money they get from sales of council houses to build new ones. Will the Labour Party meet this challenge? Will you do your part?

Ethel Mewis

FOOD FOR THOUGHT? or TEN WAYS TO KILL OUR GUILD

1. Don't go to meetings.
2. If you do, be late.
3. If it is bad weather, do not even think of going.
4. When you do attend meetings, find fault with the officers.
5. Never accept an office. It is much easier to sit back and criticise.
6. If you should be appointed to a Committee, do not go to meetings. If you are not appointed get peeved about it.
7. When you are asked for an opinion, reply that you have nothing to say, but after the meeting tell everyone how things should be done.
8. Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary, but when others do the lion's share, tell everyone the organisation is run by a clique.
9. Don't worry about paying your subscriptions.
10. Wait until you receive two or three notices from the Secretary. This will keep her from running out of something to do.

**Sue Gumley and Betty Stone
Thurmaston Branch**

THOU SHALT NOT

When we were growing up, in the 1930's, each in our turn was sent to the Co-op Night School. It was possible to join at the age of seven, and our parents, conscious of the need to find us jobs when we were fourteen, and, I suspect, also glad to get us out of our tiny flat, so that they might have some peace, sent us off as soon as age permitted. I enjoyed it, being a precocious child I could always reckon to win a prize at the end of the year. At first we were too young for written exams. We were taught by Mr Westlake, using a little book called "Our Story". We learned about the oppression of the workers, the low wages, the bad homes, the children working in the mill, and their unemployed parents waiting for their paltry wages in order to feed them all. Our hearts were touched by the sad conditions, which made the three rooms in which my poor mother tried to bring up a large family, seem palatial indeed. Perhaps my favourite chapter was 'The darkest hour was just before the dawn'. It told about the start of the Rochdale Society, and Mr Westlake then went on to explain why a shop that sold so few goods could make so much difference. He explained that wicked millers had mixed china clay with flour and wicked grocers had adulterated sugar by adding sand. So when workers started their own mills and their own shops, not only did they get cheaper goods, but they got pure goods too.

Towards the end of the year an examiner would question us — and one by one

we went into a small room and told what we had learned to a rather formidable lady or gentleman — a member of the Education Committee, but I was quite satisfied in my own mind that they were especially chosen for their great age.

In the meantime at school our reading and writing were coming on nicely, and the following year at night school we were set a written exam. In September there was a prize-giving, and every summer there was an outing which we were entitled to attend if we had made sufficient attendances. These were the little treats to encourage us to enrol again the following year.

Every day at school we had arithmetic, scripture, and reading and writing. I was always prepared to ask if there was something I didn't understand, and looking back now I realise that some of my friends would get me to ask the questions they were afraid to ask. On one particular occasion, in scripture, we were learning the ten Commandments. When it came to 'Thou shalt not commit adultery', Mary who sat next to me said, "Ask Miss what that means?" "No," I said, "I know." Miss looked fiercely at us because we were talking and the opportunity to explain passed, but later in the playground, I had a great deal of difficulty in convincing the girls that committing adultery was putting sand in sugar.

I did not worry about their doubts, committing adultery must mean adulterating, and Mr Westlake had told me about adulterating food — and what is more I'd won a prize for knowing it.

CANDLELIGHT IN THE CHAPEL

I saw the cross upon the wall
The Baby in the manger stall
The Star upon the tree so bright
I saw it all by candlelight.

The quietness the mystic spell
The Gentlefolk who came to dwell
Within the Chapel walls that night
Guided by the candlelight.

I heard the Choir with rapture sing
Christmas carols to their King
I watched and listened with delight
Within the flickering candlelight.

And then was time to kneel and pray
To offer a prayer for Xmas day
And everywhere was warm and bright
With the tender glow of candlelight.

The Minister's voice — Dear Brethren
The Star — the prayer — the hushed AMEN
The Hallowed Blessing of the night
Fell on one and all by candlelight.

Ida Bailey
Meir Branch Secretary

THE GUILD GARDEN

Come take a walk in our garden
And surprised no doubt you'll be
For in every flower that you will find
There is a little of you and me.

The Pansy with its open face
Come in, it seems to say
Stop a while, and meet my friends
Perhaps you'd like to stay.

The Poppy red like the blood that's shed
To keep our country free
But the white, our own true flower
We wear for all to see.

The Clematis, grows in the shade
The sunlight ever shuns
But like some sisters though reserved
Their quiet presence is observed.

The Cornflower with its dress so blue
Often hidden from our view
No perfume does this flower contain
But may their Beauty ever reign.

The Sunflower stands alone on high
But take a closer look
In the centre, it has you see
Many flowers for company.

The Honeysuckle our section's own
Ever climbing to places unknown
With Co-operation OUR message is spread
Our own Rainbow Flag flies over head.

But every garden must have care
For weeds will surely grow
So tend those Flowers that they will thrive
And like our GREAT MOVEMENT WILL SURVIVE.

Mrs Irene Tapp, Honicknowle Branch, S W Section

TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Five years ago a couple of socialists, appalled at the wastefulness of the "throw-away" society, and aware of the growing impoverishment and starvation in so-called underdeveloped, third world countries, hatched an idea. They tried it out first as a pilot project, found that it worked, then full steam ahead. Now it has become a nation-wide activity with off-shoots in Australia, Sweden and Holland. The idea, now embodied in the organisation, "Tools For Self-Reliance", is basically simple.

Every year there are thousands of good hand tools going to waste. Firms replace hand-tools by electrically operated machines. Old farming implements give way to combine harvesters etc. Widows have their husbands' saws, hammers etc., rusting away in garden sheds. The list is endless.

Yet these are exactly the tools which the poor villager in such countries as Tanzania, Bangladesh, Nicaragua, quite desperately needs and, through poverty, is unable to acquire. Tools may make the difference between life and death for a villager or an entire community.

So "Tools For Self-Reliance" groups now collect, refurbish and despatch kits of tools for masonry, carpentry, agriculture, etc., including those needed by women such as sewing machines. The villager does not pay, but the tools remain the property of the village workshop where work is done to benefit the whole community.

To date the TFSR has been able to despatch some 30-40,000 refurbished tools worth roughly £175,000. On a visit to Zaire and Tanzania the founders of TFSR were gratified to see tools, that they had refurbished, being used to make

beds for a lying-in unit in one village (previously the women had had to give birth on the mud floor of their huts) and desks and chairs for a village school, built by the menfolk with masonry kits from TFSR. A large consignment of agricultural tools has recently been sent to Ethiopia. In addition, good quality steel scrap is being sent to Tanzania for a village blacksmith's to turn into tools.

TFSR is a non-commercial, voluntary organisation and a registered charity. Anyone who wishes to help in this activity can obtain full details from TFSR, Netley Marsh Workshops, Southampton, Hants. SO4 2GY.

Ilford Co-operative Women's Guild have already been able to pass on a large collection of items. I am sure other Guilds would find there was a response from their members. Donations to cover costs would also be welcome. But first look around for the tools that are just lying about!

Ethel Prent,
Ilford Co-operative Women's Guild

A member of Portsea Island Co-op sent me the information about TFSR.

PLAYGROUPS

Remember the campaign we had for Playgroups long before anyone else saw the need for them? Well, Mrs Joyce Dongate of Biddenham Guild has just retired from being a Playgroup Supervisor after 12 years, and her daughter has just been registered to carry on in her place. She says no doubt there are members who have had children at playgroups or have been helpers and supervisors themselves, and would find this poem written by her daughter amusing.

THAT FIRST DAY

Today is the day — the wonderful day?
When I've got to be taken somewhere to play,
Deep down inside I feel a bit sad,
Mum says she's relieved — I think that means glad!
Dad says "Don't worry, he's sure to be fine,"
Oh no I won't — I'll scream and I'll whine
I'm going to be really ratty today
Why can't I stay at home and play?

And then we arrive and we open the door
And there's people I've not seen before
I'm not going to like this — I don't like the noise,
Mind you, they've got lots of different toys.
A lady approaches with arms opened wide
Is there anywhere I can hide?
She smiles and says "Hello, what's your name?"
Huh! I'm not daft, I know her game!

And when she grabs me in vice-like grip
I scream and I shout, and I shake and I kick (really hard)
Mum goes to the door — she's quick out of sight
I pull and I push with all of my might.
But it's really no use — and it just isn't fair
And what's mum doing while I'm not there.
"Don't cry" said the lady, "she's buying your dinner"
(I've always wanted to be thinner).

I don't care, I want to go home
I want my mummy, I feel so alone.
"There, there," says the lady "Now come on, don't cry"
She wipes my eyes, while I sob and I sigh,
I suppose I might as well give in,
Perhaps I could even manage a grin if I try (but I won't),
I walk to a table — that wasn't so bad
"Oh, is he new? What a dear little lad."

Move up please — give him an inch
(They've yet to discover how hard I can pinch).
There's painting and cutting and sticking and sand,
Most of the glue is over my hand, but oh! Where's my mum?
"Come on," says the lady, "your mum won't be long,
Come and sit down, it's time for a song."
I don't know the words, but I sing very loud,
Louder at least than the rest of the crowd.

But — hey — wait a minute, I've not finished playing,
I don't want my coat — I'm not going, I'm staying,
And look who's here now — it's mummy — OH NO,
I'm not going home mum — I don't want to go!
Mum looks sad she thinks I didn't miss her,
I suppose I'd better go over and kiss her.
"And how has he been?" "Few tears — but he's fine."
Oh great, can I go back and play there next time?

In 1948 I was asked by a friend if I would go with her to a Guild Meeting. This was the Central Guild which was called the Mother Guild, having formed 14 branches round the Doncaster Area.

I went and was bored to tears, for even though my mother was a staunch co-operator and I joined when I got married in 1926 I had never heard of the Guild, so I didn't know what they were talking about. My friend Hilda asked me to go again and I said I would if I could take my knitting which I did and sat on the back row (there were about 100 there). I was knitting away when a voice shouted from the table, Mrs Marshall, we do not knit when we have a speaker, I could have gone into a mousehole and I thought, "This is it." However, something must have drawn me, for I went again and again and was soon on the committee. At that time no one could go into the kitchen without knocking, or clear away a cup and saucer unless you were on the committee. After a year on the committee, I decided it was hard work so refused when I was nominated but soon found I was missing out on a lot of information given out in committee meetings, so accepted the next time I was nominated, and eventually became secretary. This position I knew nothing about but was willing to learn. Next on to the District and I thought, "me a district member," then District secretary. I was then elevated to the Section and met new friends and enjoyed every minute, and I am now Sectional secretary, a really worthwhile job and very rewarding. Had I not been a Guild member, my life since

being on my own would not have been so interesting, going to so many different places and meeting so many people, I would not have had so many friends and I would not have had the courage to stand up and talk.

I hope this will encourage many members whose Guild is on the point of closing to have a good look at themselves and say, "If they can take office so can I." So friends HAVE A GO.

Ruby Marshall, Yorkshire Section

THOU SHALT SING AND SHOUT

When in Alberta, Canada I attended church, where there was on the news bulletin board the Ten Commandments of Worship.

Thou shall not come to service late
Nor for the Amen refuse to wait
When speaks the organ's sweet refrain
The noisy tongue thou shall restrain
But when the Hymns are sounded out
Thou shalt lift thy voice and shout
The endmost seat thou shalt leave free
For more must share the pew with thee
The offering plate thou shalt not fear
But give thine uttermost with cheer.

Has anyone in this country seen or heard
such delightful lines before, asks Mrs Olive
Johnson who sent in this article?

O. Johnson
Central Guild, Cambridge

RECIPE CORNER

Thinking ahead to Xmas? Try this recipe for

Mincemeat

Ingredients

8 oz dried mixed fruit
2 oz Co-op suet
6 oz chopped apples
2 oz raw carrot, grated
½ teas each of salt, mixed spices,
nutmeg grated
Juice of 1 lemon and grated rind
2 tablesp. sherry or brandy
(don't forget a glass for yourself)
2 tablesp. of marmalade

Method

Combine the dried fruit, suet, apple, carrot and mix well. Add spices and salt, then lemon rind and juice. Mix to a softish consistency with marmalade and sherry or brandy. Turn into warm jars; screw top ones are best. Perfect for Christmas, made in October.

Mrs J. Welling, Abbots Langley Guild
(You may now drink your glass. Ed.)

J. Kelly of Moredon Guild sent me the three winning recipes of a Guild competition held recently.

The Winner, Mrs E. Clarke.

Tea Bread

Ingredients

400 grammes mixed fruit
300 ml cold strong 99 Co-op tea
2 cups S.R. flour
¾ cup brown sugar
½ tsp. mixed spice
1 egg

Method

Soak fruit in tea, leave overnight. Sieve flour and add sugar and spice. Add lightly beaten egg to fruit and gradually stir in flour mixture. Cook in loaf tin for 1 hr 10 mins at 180 degrees C.

2nd Winner was Mrs Kath Chalke with her
Devonshire Apple

Ingredients

4 oz S.R. flour
4 oz margarine
4 oz caster sugar
2 eggs
½ lb cooking apples

Method

Cream margarine and sugar together until fluffy, beat in eggs one at a time, add flour. Peel and core the apples and chop up into small pieces, add to the mixture. When all is mixed well, put into a greased pie dish. Cook on the middle shelf at 375F — 180C (moderate) for about 30 minutes.

Mrs L. Hodges, 3rd prizewinner, found her recipe in a Co-op cookery book bought in 1973 called "Baking your Cake and Eating it". One of her favourite recipes she says, it is cheap and nutritious and fibre conscious, as we all seem to be these days.

Cereal Fruit Loaf

Ingredients

2 oz crumbled Weetabix or Co-op whole wheat cereal
8 oz soft brown sugar
6 oz mixed dried fruit
1 oz finely chopped walnuts
½ pint milk
1 egg
7 oz S.R. flour
½ tsp salt

Method

Soak Weetabix, sugar and dried fruit in milk for 6 to 12 hours. Add egg, self raising flour, and walnuts and mix together. Turn into a greased loaf tin and bake for 1–1½ hours at mark 3 (325F). Slice and serve plain or buttered.

KEEP IF YOU CAN CAKE

From Nancy Wynne, Chester Guild

Ingredients

4 oz glace cherries
1 lb plain flour
1 level tsp salt
8 oz caster sugar
6 oz margarine
½ pint milk
8 oz currants
6 oz sultanas
4 oz raisins
4 oz chopped mixed peel
2 level tsps bi-carb. of soda
3 tblesps malt vinegar

No eggs needed

Method

Grease and line 8 in round x 3 in deep tin. Cut cherries into ¼s, sift flour with salt, stir in caster sugar, add margarine and rub in finely, add fruits, cherries and peel. Dissolve bi-carb in milk, add vinegar, then beat quickly into dry ingredients until smooth. Bake in centre of moderate oven 350 deg. —Mark 4, for about 2¾ hrs, cover top with double greaseproof for last hour. Leave in tin 5 mins, then turn on to wire tray. Store in airtight tin for few days.

Handy Hints

Crumble a couple of digestive biscuits over the bottom of a tart before putting the fruit in — prevents the pastry from becoming sodden with the juices.

Mix a teacupful of bread crumbs with a medium sized tin of salmon when making sandwiches or salads. It gives you twice the amount.

Nancy Wynne
Secretary Chester Guild

CHEESE DIP

4 oz Philadelphia cheese
small carton plain yogurt
single cream or top of milk

Fillings

¼ cucumber, or small tin shrimps
crab or tuna, drain well

Method

Cream cheese, add 1 dessert spoon yogurt, 1 dessert spoon cream or top of milk. If using fish add 1 dessert spoon of juice, add more yogurt cream/milk until mixture just drops off spoon, add filling, and serve with crisps, chipsticks, potato rings or dried toast fingers.

E. Langford, Newton Abbot

*CESHUNT GUILD in
HERTFORDSHIRE, would like to
share the amusing things that have
happened to them recently.*

We invited one of our Board Members to come along as our speaker, to which he happily agreed, but on the way to us, there was a terrific thunderstorm, and our speaker had quite a walk from the bus stop, so that when he arrived he was soaked to the skin. Well, he asked if we could dry his shirt somewhere, so he took it off and we draped it over the urn, which was the only warm thing in the place! We knew his trousers were also soaked, but thought we had better draw the line at the waist-line! However, we had a very interesting talk on America, but as our speaker said he expects he has been the only bare-chested speaker in front of a load of women! (unless you know better of course).

We were paying a visit to the Mansion House, and were being escorted round, and there was a little man (Russian Jew) also being shown round on his own, and he joined our group. Well, when we came out we were talking amongst ourselves and he found out that we were going to Covent Garden, he said he was going there, and could we find room for him in our coach. Well, we said we could, as you know Guildswomen are always obliging! — but he was hanging on to us when we got off the coach, so I very politely had to shake hands and tell him that we had

our lunch booked and it was very nice to have met him etc., so with that he went. Well this seems unbelievable, but in April last, a year later, we went to see the show "Me and My Girl", and who should be a few feet away from us but the same little man, it was definitely him, as two or three of us commented on it, but we didn't make ourselves known again in case he wanted to come back to Cheshunt!

Incidentally we met Lady Donaldson at the Mansion House and had a nice little chat with her.

THREE DAYS PLUS ONE

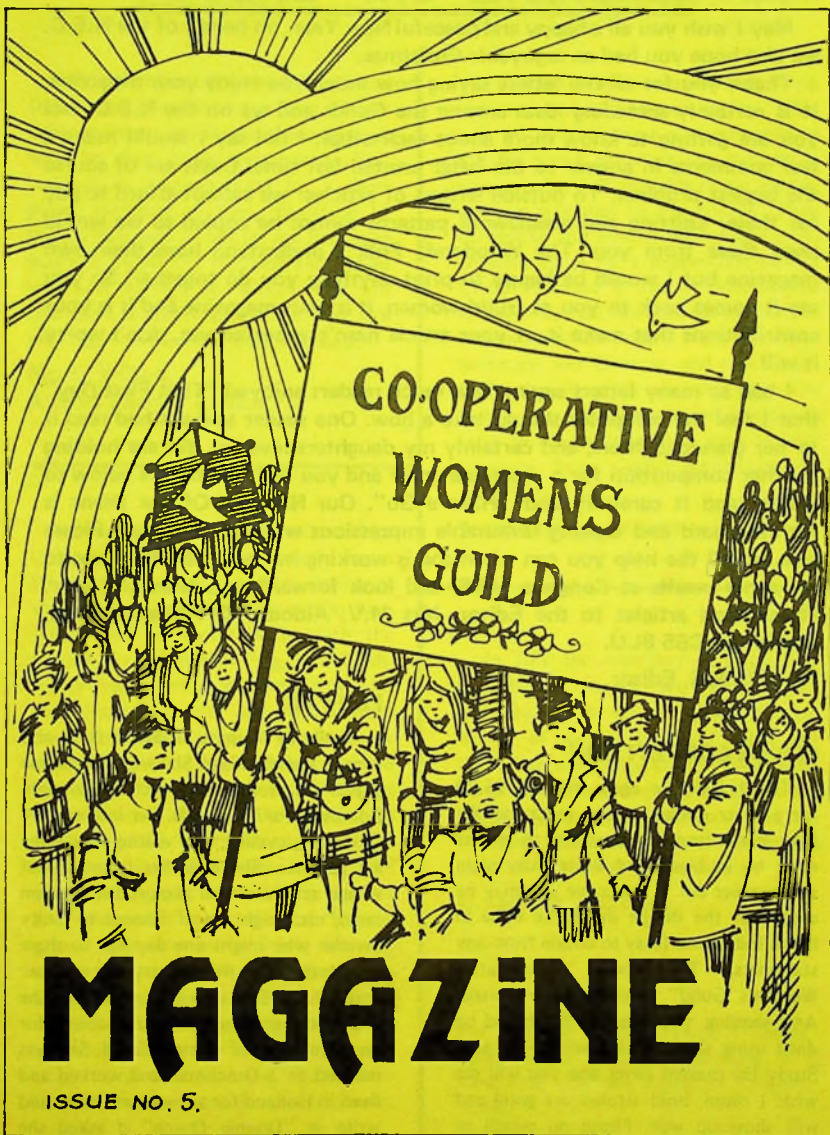
On Monday did the washing and sundry other chores,
Like dusting all the furniture and 'Hoovering' the floors,
Tuesday had me shopping to stock the fridge again
And going home and grumbling, I'd got caught in the rain.
Wednesday had me waking and making morning tea,
I'm feeling very cheerful, what has come over me?
I serve the lunch and still feel grand, I hum a little tune
And then remember why I'm bright, there's Guild this afternoon.
So each and every Wednesday, good company I seek
It's here at last, the day for me, the highlight of my week.
Thursday, check the minute book and write for all to see,
And everything I write therein, is happening to me
The little bell that starts us off, the name card does the rounds,
The raffle that I sometimes win, the goodwill that abounds.
Our Guild song with the words so true, the banner on display
A very happy afternoon, there's not much more to say,
The weekly news from all my friends, the welcome cup of tea
Once more the meeting closes, it's home once more for me.
I'm thankful for the friendliness, with which the time is filled,
Another week to go before our happy Co-op Guild !!!

Mrs Davenport, Rosemary Guild, Clacton on Sea

MISSING

Oh where amidst all the struggle and strife
Are the quiet times of yesteryear
The long slow pattern of daily life
And all the lovely things that were.
The prayer book carried on Sunday morn,
The hymns and tunes that we all knew
A day of rest and Sunday best,
They seem to have vanished into the blue.
And after church at eventide
The gentle stroll in the countryside,
Then homeward return to fireside bliss
Well these are the things I miss.
The old lamplighter on his way
The thrice rat-tat of the postman's knock,
The door ever open all times of day
No need to turn the key in the lock.
The gentle cart-horse in the field
Ploughing the earth for the harvest yield.
The Xmas pudding where one hoped to find
A threepenny bit of the silver kind.
The voices of children on the green
The toss of the hay under the sun's warm kiss
Such happy capers that ever were seen
Now, these are the things I miss.
The kitchen step for the knife's sharp point
The better for dad to carve the joint.
The welcome call of the watercress man
And the measure of milk from churn to can.
The walk in the park by the lake
And young lovers strolling hand in hand
No doubt whispering of the vows they will take
While the old folk sit and listen to the band.
The touch of cap and raising of hat
The stepping aside for the ladies to pass
Now folk hurry and flurry to be on their way
Things are not the same somehow today.

Ida Bailey, Meir Branch



MAGAZINE

ISSUE NO. 5.

HELLO GUILDSWOMEN,

May I wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year, on behalf of the N.E.C. we also hope you had an enjoyable Christmas.

Thank you for all the letters saying how much you enjoy your magazine. It is certainly spreading ideas around the Guilds and we on the N.E.C. feel you are getting to know more about each other. I did say I would make a few comments in answer to the letter printed last time. Costs are of course the biggest problem. To outside writers of articles: we cannot afford to pay for these; knitting and needlework patterns cannot be copied so we would need these from you. The Woodcraft Folk I understand have their own magazine but I would be happy to print anything you do together. So you see it comes back to you as Guildswomen, it is your magazine and it is your contributions that make it. If your article hasn't appeared yet, don't worry it will.

I had so many letters saying how much readers enjoyed "That First Day" that I feel the composer should take a bow. One reader said she had read it to her granddaughters, and certainly my daughters loved it. We are holding another competition for a magazine cover and you will find details below so please read it carefully and "Have a Go". Our National Officer Diane is working hard and making favourable impressions wherever she goes. Please give her all the help you can when she is working in your area. We hope to see some results at Congress 1986, and look forward to a successful year. Please send articles to the Editor, Mrs M.V. Aldous, 43 Whitehill Road, Cambridge CB5 8LU.

VI ALDOUS, Editor

COVER COMPETITION

The N.E.C. are again offering £5.00 for a cover design for this magazine. We have learnt from last time and all entries must be in black and white. Any plain white paper cut to magazine size may be used, but the design should be done in black Indian ink (easy to obtain from any stationers). The words "Co-operative Women's Guild" must be incorporated. Any shading you need to do should be done using short strokes with your pen. Study the present cover and you will see what I mean, bold strokes are good and will show up well. Please no pencil or Biro drawings as they are not suitable. Have a go and Good Luck.

PEN PAL

Sheila of Malpass, Cheshire is 39 and lives in a small village. She would welcome a pen pal from a city such as London, Edinburgh or Newcastle. Her interests are gardening, cycling, and visiting museums/art galleries. She feels her letters about village activities such as ox roasting, pram races, etc. might be of interest to a city dweller who might one day like to share the pleasures of the countryside with her and her son Erik who is 12 years old. She is a school governor and parish councillor and a member of Chester Guild. She was married to a Dutchman and worked and lived in Holland for a few years and would write in "Double Dutch" if asked she says. So please get out those pens and paper.

Around the Branches

Abbots Langley branch recently invited District Secretary Mrs Joyce Dyer to their Guild meeting, and she delighted them all with her Pam Ayres style poetry. This resulted in a competition for a short poem, minimum 4 lines, maximum 12 lines. There were 12 entries and first prize was won by Miss C. Hodgson and second was won by Mrs A. Wilson. You will find them in this magazine. All were of a very high standard, said their secretary.

**Mrs C. Wilson,
Abbots Langley Branch**

Royston, Haverhill, and Cambridge Guilds travelled to Letchworth for a District Social in the summer, arriving in time to do some shopping and to have lunch. The afternoon began with the singing of the Rainbow Flag, and Guilds' yearly reports left over from our A.G.M. were read. A director and his wife from the C.R.S. who were guests said they were astonished at what the Guilds had achieved over the year. They were asked to judge a competition for May Bonnets, which attracted about 15 entries, very colourful and very well done, and they caused quite a lot of laughter. After a hard task 1st and 2nd prizes were awarded. Musical games followed, and a lovely tea was served by Letchworth Guild. A total of 81 members were present, and enjoyed the chance to chat together. A warm vote of thanks was given to the Letchworth Guild for all their hard work and hospitality to make it such an enjoyable afternoon.

Joan

Throckley Branch were told their Co-op Hall was to close. The question was "What will we do?" We have a membership of 60, we could not close our hall, there was no other hall available in our village, and we protested to the Society. They considered and offered the hall and all its contents to us for a peppercorn sum of £1.00 to make it into a much-needed Community Hall. We have formed a limited company of which I am Company Secretary and Director, and two of our local councillors are also directors. The hall is now being modernized and will serve the community for a great number of years. Truly a great achievement by the C.W.G.

Jenny Nelson, Secretary

In July the members of Birchwood Guild handed over 40 vests, several jumpers and a beautifully knitted blanket to a co-worker of Mother Teresa of India. The Guild had previously knitted these items on a "knit in" evening. A photograph was taken by the local newspaper, and the President thanked members for such a good effort from so few members.

E. Jackson, Secretary

The response to the "Dustbin Babies" campaign has been overwhelming. It is something that has touched all hearts. "Editor".

A SIGN FOR MANNINGTREE

Manningtree is the smallest town in England, and the River Stour divides it from Suffolk. Manningtree stands on the Essex side. It is a delightful old town, retaining much of the past. Some of the houses date back to the 16th century and are still well preserved. Perhaps it is best known for Mathew Hopkins, the witch hunter, who is said to have brought about the deaths of 60 witches by burning or hanging. Seven or eight of these were Manningtree women. The town has strong connections with the river, and has a flourishing sailing club. The River Stour is tidal at Manningtree and is the same river depicted in many of the pictures by John Constable, the painter. Today, Manningtree is expanding, and many people commute to London, just 70 minutes ride by train.

The Manningtree branch of the Co-operative Women's Guild thought they would like to give something to the community to celebrate the Guild's centenary. Many suggestions were put forward, but didn't seem quite right, until someone suggested that we should present Manningtree with a sign. Having decided this, Mrs F.W. Long who was then the Guild's Chairman, sought the advice of John Wainwright, a local architect, who designed the sign and gave his services free. Next the plans were submitted to the local council for approval. All was well, they gave their consent for the sign to be erected near the market square. The local school was approached and the Headmaster gave permission for the sign to be made by pupils in the metal work class.

At last the sign was ready, and the Committee decided to ask Mrs Edith



Photo: Harwich & Manningtree Standard

Smith (a founder member of the Manningtree Guild and its first Chairman) to perform the unveiling ceremony. Invitations were sent to the Council, the Directors of Colchester East Essex Co-operative Society, along with the Headmaster of Manningtree School, Mrs D. Munson (District Secretary, Colchester) and Mr J. Wainwright, the architect. On a bitterly cold February day the sign was unveiled and handed over to Manningtree Council. The sign shows an old sailing smack, and is made in wrought iron. A plaque at the base gives details of the Guild's Centenary, and the name of the designer and by whom it was made. A truly communal effort. To show their gratitude to pupils of the Manningtree School metal work class, the Guild presented the school with a cheque for £50.

Mrs M. Jackson

Hello to you all says Abingdon Guild. We have a membership of 28 and enjoy the fellowship of our meetings and our good and varied programme. We are proud that one of our members, Mrs E. Stump is National Vice President this year, and we shared in her pleasure in being presented to the Queen in our Centenary Year. We held a picnic under the tree we planted in Centenary Year at Nag's Head Island, Abingdon, not long ago, and we all said how lovely it would be if we could have an annual picnic at Stanford Hall. I would be pleased to hear from any Guildswomen who would like to write, as I am sure an exchange of ideas would help us all. Any ideas for attracting new members please?

June Cogdell, Abingdon Guild

On Monday 12 July Mitcham Branch arranged a coach outing for our members. The day started well; it was warm and sunny, the coach arrived on time, and off we went. There was a spot of bother at the end of Morden Park Rd. Our coach was stationary when a private car came a bit too close and badly scratched its side and door. "Alright," we thought, "an exchange of names and off again," but the car driver had other ideas. He wanted the police, so along they came. He was very agitated and made a big scene, so our driver phoned his company and they agreed to send along another coach. However, the police didn't take long to make the necessary notes and we were allowed to continue on our way past all the concrete of the Kingston bypass into the beautiful country of Surrey and Sussex into Hampshire. Everything was so green, and the poppies that I remember from my cycling days seemed to be returning to the fields and banks, although one old gentleman did tell me that primroses were now a dying species.

Norwich Central's ninety year old member had a mishap on their summer outing to Bury St Edmunds, Sudbury and Lavenham. The incident happened during the lunch stop at Sudbury, the wheel came off her chair while her daughter was pushing her through the town. A young local lad helped them back to the coach. At our next stop which was Lavenham church, Arthur the coach owner-come-driver, kindly mended Mrs Meadows chair, while they visited the church and the town of Lavenham. The day started wet and dismal, but ended in sunshine with everyone saying what a successful, enjoyable outing Mrs Palmer had arranged for us and our friends.

Eileen Matless, Hon. Secretary

We went on through Dorking and Westcote past the tumbling pool where King John disturbed the woodman's daughter bathing. She was frightened, went further into the pool and as her brother went to help her, they both drowned. We drove on to Abinger which was once the main source of iron ore, Godstone which was once the home of the leather trade, Cobham (which is to brass rubbers what the National Gallery is to artists), Newlands Corner and Amberly and to Guildford, passing walls of flint, sandstone and hard white chalk from the Hogs Back. History had been strung like beads along what was once the Pilgrims Way following the murder of Thomas A'Becket. Our journey ended in Hampshire where a footpath led to a castle in Cowdray Park (where Prince Philip used to go to play polo) but after a cup of tea, and a look around, it was time to return home from our great adventure into the past.

My Guild have asked me to write this for the magazine so here it is.

Maisie Enefer, Secretary

South Lowestoft Guild writes that they were very proud of their member Mrs Rita Carter who had the honour to be presented to the Queen when she visited Lowestoft in the summer. Mrs Carter is a governor of Fun Park Primary School, and Kirkley High School, a member of the Executive Management Committee of the local Labour Party, and a member of the local Industrial Liaison Panel T.V.E.L. scheme for 16-18 year olds. Her husband is a local councillor and Shadow Chairman of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, which is in charge of a very old house at Oulton Broad that has been turned into a Museum which houses a very fine collection of old Lowestoft china. The Queen was presented with a piece of this china to mark the occasion of her visit.

Helen Batley, Secretary



Ipswich Society were the perfect host when the South Eastern Section held its Annual Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving, at the Church of Saint Mary-Le-Tower, Ipswich, followed by a rally in the Corn Exchange. The service was conducted by the Revd. Keith Jones M.A. who delighted Guildswomen with his wonderful address and knowledge of the work of the Co-operative Women's Guild, and as they shook hands as they left the church many expressed their appreciation. Mrs F. Francis read the Bidding, and Mrs V. Aldous read the Lesson. The Mayor and Mayoress Cllr. and Mrs Eric Grant were present on both occasions, and the Co-op Ladies Choir sang some delightful pieces during the service. The Ipswich Society was represented by Mr F. Talbot, President, Mr W. Brown, Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors and entertained the Mayor and Mayoress, Guild Officials and guests to lunch. Mrs V. Aldous welcomed 360 Guild members to the rally in the

afternoon. The Mayor gave a Civic Welcome to the Guild to Ipswich, Mrs Audrey Tucker, Chairman of the District Council gave a welcome from her Committee, and Mr F. Talbot, President, gave a welcome from the Ipswich Society, saying they were especially pleased to do this, as this was the first time the Guild had held their rally in Ipswich, and he hoped it wouldn't be the last. The Speaker was Miss Joyce Darlington, who spoke on the "Dustbin Babies", illustrated with slides taken on her recent visit to India, where she met Mother Teresa and her workers. She said the response for knitted garments and blankets from the Guild members had been overwhelming and gave an assurance that they were being dispatched for this very urgent need. Mrs M. Russell J.P. presented her with a crystal vase on behalf of the Section. The Mayor and Mr Talbot were presented with a Parker pen and the Mayoress with a basket of flowers.

**Florence Francis,
Sectional Secretary**

Leeds Parish Church was the venue for the Yorkshire Section Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving for the Co-operative Women's Guild. About 400 Guildswomen from Bradford, Hull, Doncaster, Sheffield and many other places were present. The hymn "Praise my soul the King of Heaven" accompanied the procession of flag-bearers to the altar. The Lady Mayoress of Leeds read the Preamble of the United Nations Charter, thus emphasising the International aspect. Mrs Joyce Cuffling read a passage from Philippians Chapter 2. The Rev. Canon Jim Richardson gave the address and urged Guildswomen to watch that individual selfishness did not obstruct the wider service to the community which was their predominate aim. The singing of the Guild song "Of Whole Heart Cometh Hope" and the recital of the Resolve concluded the service. Two anthems were sung by two choirboys of Leeds Parish Church, and the organ was played by Simon Lindley, its Master of the Music.

Ruby Marshall, Sectional Secretary

Baddesley Ensor Branch has joined forces with other organisations in their area, namely Royal British Legion, United Reformed Church, and Grendon Darby and Joan Club, to knit vests for the Mother Teresa Appeal for Babies in India. Over 200 vests have so far been knitted and we shall keep on knitting while the wool keeps rolling in, says Mrs Eva Garratt. The wives of the Birch Coppice Retired Miners Leisure Club have also taken part.

AN HONOUR FOR DAISY AND GEORGE

Daisy, who is District Secretary for Hants. Central Mid-Southern Section, together with her husband George has helped a Gosport housing charity for more than three decades, and they recently opened a new £10,000 building named in their honour. Mr George White and his wife Daisy unveiled a commemorative plaque on an administration complex for the Gosport Housing Society. The single storey building at Northcott House has been named "White House" in honour of the couple who became involved with the charity in the 1950s. Mr White became Chairman of the society nine years ago, and they have both worked long and hard for the Organisation ever since. Their family and friends were among 60 guests at the Opening Ceremony.

Nellie Pawling, Sectional Secretary

Former President of Weymouth Branch Edith Symes and husband George were congratulated by the Mayor of Weymouth on their diamond wedding anniversary.



Erith Guild celebrated their Centenary with a well attended Church Service and Dinner. The service was held at Christ Church, Erith, and was conducted by the vicar, the Rev. John Peal. The lessons were read by Mrs Marian Woods, sectional member, and Mrs Ivy Chadwick, secretary of the Erith Branch. A Paschal candlestick was presented by the Guild to the Church with an engraved plaque that read, "Presented to Christ Church to Commemorate the Erith Guild Centenary." Mrs Eunice Stump, the National Vice President, was at the church service, and the buffet lunch that followed for around 100 Guild members, guests and friends. To finish a wonderful day of celebrations a Dinner and Social Evening was held at Monroes Carvery in Erith. They hope to have a final celebration in December with a running buffet and entertainment to which all the members of the S.E.M. Section are invited. They were presented with two cakes, one each from the Guild President and Secretary. Ivy sent me a

letter received from one of their older members aged 84, who had to miss the celebrations because of ill health, and now feels she must say farewell to the Guild as she is housebound. She has served the Guild in all capacities in her time, and she says she has gained great knowledge through the Guild, attending the classes they used to provide, and has made many friends, but, that alas, like the water under the bridge, they have all gone, though memories linger of the happy times we enjoyed. She writes, "I hope that you will remember me with a smile recalling some of my funny stories, and the laughter and fun we all had on our outings and holidays. So thanks for the Friendship, it has been a pleasure to know you all, and keep the Rainbow Flag Flying." Yes, a little sad, but what a wonderful lady to say her goodbyes in that manner, and we can be proud the Guild has given her such happy memories to enjoy.

Ivy Chadwick, Secretary



1985 Annual Congress at Weston-Super-Mare. National President, Vice-President and Guildswomen posting "Save the National Health Service" cards to the Prime Minister.

THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE ALLIANCE

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The ICA women's committee, under various titles, dates from the eleventh ICA Congress held in Ghent (Belgium) in 1924. Today it comprises 71 members from 52 ICA member organisations in 36 countries. Approximately half these members come from developing countries. The committee meets once a year, and by invitation has during the last 6 years met in Iceland, Finland, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany and will be meeting in 1986 in Japan. These meetings of 2/3 days duration have been held at our instigation with a special topic in mind and in collaboration with another specialised committee of the ICA, e.g. AGLCOOP for education and training, the Press committee, and the Consumer committee to name but three. The committee elects every 4 years an executive consisting of President, 2 Vice Presidents and now an enlarged supporting committee of 6. In Bulgaria this year the following were elected.

President: Mrs Norah Willis, U.K.

Vice Pres.: Mrs Ulla Jonsdotter, Sweden.

Vice Pres.: Mrs Eugenie Vasyukhina,
U.S.S.R.

Committee: Mrs Ada Gillan, Israel;
Mrs Bernadette Wanyoneji, Kenya;
Mrs Livamila Alipeva, Bulgaria;
Mrs Degmar Lasvoukova, Czechoslovakia;
Mrs Ramane Gurusamy, Malaysia and
Mrs Jusefa Palmowska, Poland.

This executive meets twice a year, again by invitation of the country concerned; the 1985 meeting will be in Washington U.S.A. At these meetings the programme for the forthcoming year is planned, training projects discussed, relationships with the regional officers in

Moslie, Tanzania and New Delhi, India (where we have women officers), and planned and projected training schemes for women leaders, especially in newly developing countries, are organised. Past secretaries of our committee have been Muriel Russell and Rita Rhodes, both well known in the Co-operative Movement in this country. At the moment we are being given secretarial services by Mr L. Veradi from the office in Geneva, but it is hoped that we will be able to find a woman amongst the countries in membership who will take on the position for the future. Almost all types of Co-operatives are represented on the committee; e.g. consumer, Housing, insurance, banking, peasant aid, handicapped people, farming, fishing, etc.

Our work over the years has been the pursuing of questions on equality between men and women within the Co-operative movement, on equal pay for equal work, educational opportunities, rights to Co-operative membership for women, right to participate, and access to Co-operative credit and our consistent concern for world peace. These concerns are reflected in our current research programme and the joint activities with other specialised organisations. Policy statements have been drawn up and presented to the ICA Central Committee and the United Nations on: — Women as equal partners in Co-operative Development, 1983. Educational opportunities for girls and young women — The Co-operative Contribution, 1984. A paper on our Aims and Objectives was given at the United Nations Decade of Women conference in Nairobi in July 1985.

Our plans for the future include an updating of the document "Situation and role of women in the Co-operative movement", instigating or supporting a campaign for Peace within the auspices of the ICA, and as a follow-up to the "Bucket of Water" campaign the encouragement to "Plant a Tree" so saving soil erosion.

This can only be a brief outline of a worldwide committee and its work, how-

ever, if more information is required, or a Speaker for a Sectional or District Rally, contact the President, Mrs Norah Willis, 2 Langham Drive, Romford, Essex RM6 4TD. Tel: 01-599 2752.

Thank you Norah, so many of our Guildswomen have little chance to learn what is going on within the ICA. (Ed)

LOST AND FOUND

In 1940 my husband bought me a gold chain and pendant, and it was one of my treasures. It had a cross on one side and the Lord's Prayer on the other, and I wore it every day without fail. That was until I went to Letchworth recently on a District get-together. When I got home it was gone. In desperation I rang the Police who said it had not been handed in, but they would make enquiries. Later they rang to say they had drawn a blank. I contacted the caretaker of the hall where we met, the cafe where we had had our lunch and the Co-op where I had bought a raincoat. The staff had been most helpful and had insisted I tried on numerous coats before I made up my mind which to buy. There must have been about 100 coats on the rails. The next day they rang to say that they had taken every coat off the rail and searched in pockets, etc. in case it had dropped off while I was trying one on. But again — no success.

Time lapsed and I was becoming reconciled to my loss, when, lo and behold, Mrs Sharman, our Guild Chairman rang with stunning news. It had been found. By this time it was October but she had not used a particular handbag since we had been at Letchworth in the September and wanting something she could not find, she looked in the handbag, and felt something in the corner. Yes, my cross and chain had been found. It must have

dropped off in the hall and into Mrs Sharman's bag when she was sitting next to me. I nearly cried with delight and I wanted to sing the Te Deum for my good fortune.

Frieda Niyogi, Secretary, Haverhill

Sea Cadets in Stoke-on-Trent rang in the news last night — literally. So read the press report recently, when the Meir Branch of the Co-operative Women's Guild presented youngsters with a brass ship's bell at the Territorial Barracks. The youngsters were from the T.S. Jervis unit and were delighted to receive it to replace one that was stolen from their Ivy House Bucknall headquarters. Acting chairman Mrs Ida Bailey said it took about 18 months to find the bell and raise enough money to cover the cost of the project by holding raffles and other events. It took a long time because you have to wait for a ship to be broken up, then the name has to be removed and the bell polished and inscribed. The 24 members of the Guild, most of them pensioners decided to replace the bell after hearing that there was no hope of recovering the original. The Guild's involvement with the T.S. Jervis dates from 1973 when they visited a minesweeper and became interested in the Royal Navy. They have since toured frigates and submarines, and became the first women's organisation to visit the army barracks at Whittington, home of the 1st Staffordshire Regiment.

NATIONAL CONTEST

"AN AMUSING INCIDENT IN MY LIFE"

2nd Winner

My subject is very down to earth, namely "the Call of Nature", (Answer it if you can).

Last summer my husband and I were invited to accompany a friend and his wife on a touring holiday in Scotland, staying bed and breakfast. We were often amused but also frustrated at times by the unseen queues for the loo's. Every morning and night it was the same thing, "If at first you don't succeed, TRY, TRY TRY again." Anyone who had their bedroom next door to the toilet or straight opposite were fortunate because they could hear the flushing water and the door opening for the lucky occupier to come out, and they could then nip straight in, keeping out the other poor unfortunates who tried the handle in vain, no matter what state they were in. Sometimes it was upstairs and our bedroom down, sometimes it was downstairs and our bedroom up. That was when it was frustrating, travelling up and down without success, until that right moment in time came to get in and take over for the necessary time it took. Oh, "the agony and the ecstasy of it all." I must admit, though, it was only the 'after it was over' part that I found it to be amusing, seeing the heads peeping out of the doors to see if the coast was clear, just ready for the pounce. Actually I found it acutely embarrassing on the morning I was trying to turn the handle to get in, at the same time as a man was turning the handle to get out, and we nearly fell in a heap in the doorway, and to add to the embarrassment I found myself sharing the same breakfast table, too. Of course it wasn't only morning and night that we visited toilets, for naturally we needed them at

various times throughout the day, whichever place we were in. Some were well kept, some were not, but it didn't matter sometimes what condition they were in, as long as they were there. 'Any old port in a storm,' you know.

When my friend and I walked into the "Ladies" at one place though we thought it was Buckingham Palace; the red carpet was on the floor and a vase of artificial flowers on a fancy little table. We were pleasantly surprised and it was free, for we had had to pay 10p at the one before that, just for the bare essentials.

Mind it was a different 'kettle of fish' the day we visited the "Gents" at a well known beauty spot. We must have been really mesmerised with the performance of a Piper in full regalia. I never even got what I went in for, she did, but only just. I wasn't as needful as her, and because of the stench of obnoxious odour that reeked the place, I went out and stood at the entrance to breathe in fresh air, and it was a good job I did, because it was then that I saw the sign and knew instantly that we were in dire distress. I rushed back in, shouting the ghastly news and she nearly died on the spot or, should I say, the seat! What a calamity! However we were extremely lucky, for none of the male species made an appearance during that brief episode, but as we made a hurried exit, we saw three men heading our way. We were giggling like school-girls with relief at our narrow escape even though both of us are at the 'Senior Citizens' status.

Our husbands of course were horrified when told of our near disaster, and they had plenty to say on the subject, vowing to keep a tight eye on us in future. Needless to say we were 'all alert' at the next point of call.

Well, as all holidays do, it came to an end, all the beautiful scenery left behind us, but the camera had done well to capture the lovely scenes on film, to recall what we had seen in reality. It is a holiday I will never forget, and I would

do it all again, except of course for the trespassing into 'male territory'. I shudder yet at the thought, but just imagine if that big braw piper had 'popped' in for a 'pee', we would for certain have got to know the answer to 'What a Scotsman wears under his kilt'. The mind boggles!

DISASTER

Disaster in our city
Such tragedy we shared
It struck with sudden fury
We could only stare.

To think all this had happened
"Why us?" passed through our minds
No one could understand it
Disaster of this kind.

We rallied round
All help was found
No matter where or when
To do, to try,
You and I
Children, women, and men.

The things that people thought of,
No ending to ideas
To help to ease the heartache
For victims' future years.

What have we learned, we citizens?
We've proved that we all cared,
We rallied round in trouble
As always, and we shared.

Irene Glenn, Bradford Central Guild

Mrs D. Verity raised £100.00 for Head Office last year and is well on the way to making her second £100.00, but she is running out of orders, and has asked if I will let you know she is still making Rainbow scarves, and if you would like some they are still £1.00 each plus about 20p postage. Her address is 9 Bembridge Drive Northampton, NN2 6LZ.

SHARING AND CARING

At Allen's Cross, we are but few
The Guild is always in our view
Though we're humble we do our share
For others less fortunate, we really care.
With films and talks and sales galore
Our money for the projects pour.
Harvest sales, we really shone
Charitable funds, to this has gone,
Vests and blankets, we've made quite
a few

How more can we help? So give us our due
We would if we could, no doubt we
would try
But limited numbers is always our cry.
So come on you others, Co-op is the
theme

Join all together, let's make it our scheme.
No haloes given, the feeling is there
Others will see, Co-op women care.

Elsie Dowson, Allen's Cross Guild

HINTS

Tight tops on jars or bottles.

To remove a screw top from a jar or bottle, place an elastic band round top tightly and turn.

Mrs O. Bagley, Wimpson Guild

Nutcrackers too are very useful to open a tight bottle. (ED)

To prevent smell spreading when cooking cauliflower put a crust of bread in the saucepan.

Mrs E. Crump, Wimpson Branch

12 DAY TOUR HIGH-LIGHT TOUR OF G.D.R.

Mrs Rita Weiss invites members to join her on a 12 day tour of G.D.R. from July 30th to August 10th, 1986, cost approx. £290.00, including Visa-insurance tours, halfboard first class Hotels and Guide. The Itinerary sounds marvellous,

but space prevents printing it all. A £15.00 deposit payable to Tedmans Travel will reserve you a place. Please write to Rita Weiss, 40 Brightwell Avenue, West-cliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 9EE, for full details.

Extracts from the history of North West Hornchurch Co-operative Women's Guild, now called, after alteration of boundaries, Park Lane C.W.G. Compiled by Mr Moss, from 54 years of minute books.

Affiliations to the Labour Party and W.E.A. were discussed in Dec. 1931. President said "Be jealous of our good name and high standing," and it was agreed it would be preferable for members to join themselves, and strengthen their own personal ties, and while they agreed the W.E.A. was an excellent organisation, our first duty was to our own Guild, and they would consider it when funds were available. Their Programme that first year consisted of speakers, discussion, brains trust, and reports of conferences. Subjects included peace and disarmament, equal work for equal pay, the local council, flowers of the Guild garden, nursery schools, food rings around Britain, CWS and Co-operative Productions. They agreed to support the Mrs Ben Jones Convalescent Fund, The Daily Herald, Hospital Book, Romford and District Unemployed Union, protested against cuts in secondary schools, unfair tax on Co-op dividend, Married Women's Property Act, family allowance systems in European countries. They promised support for London Trades Councils 'Campaign against Bad Housing', sent donation to Wrexham miners, and had a collection for Dagenham and Romford hunger marchers, which realised 5 shillings and

six pence. (Are you, like me, comparing it with today's subjects and campaigns? Ed.) Their first half-year's report stated they had a membership of 41 with an average of 25 attendance. They started a Penny Bank with 1/6 for every member who had a new baby, and started a Sick Box with a 1/6 collection. They sent their President to Congress at York and also started a Thrift Club. Ten years later they were still giving Penny Bank Books to the new born, but with 5/- in them, sending letters to the Ministry of Food about children's school milk, campaigning for nurseries for mothers on War Work, and dinners for OAPs at 6d. and equal compensation for war injury to women. They opened a branch of the OAP "Pensions League" which is still going strong. A lemon brought from overseas by a Navy man who had been torpedoed 3 times was raffled and raised 10/6. They held their E.C. meeting in a member's air raid shelter, but in 1951 they were holding Coronation celebrations and in 1953 they were collecting for Guild victims of Canvey Island floods. LCS Coalmen having to carry 2 cwt. sacks had them campaigning again, and they were successful in getting Mrs Jiggins elected a councillor. How to keep fit after forty, and how the changing World is affecting co-operation, were by now their subjects under discussion. The Guild is now 53 years old and they still have a member who joined 2 weeks after the Guild opened. (A history to be proud of. Ed.)

**VERSES COMPOSED AND SUNG
TO THE TUNE OF ANNIE LAURIE
BY MRS K. BAILEY, PRESIDENT
OF BRIMINGTON GUILD to her
Guild and guests on the occasion
of their 49th birthday.**

We've all met here today
For our Guild's Birthday.
We've been going a long long time
The years are forty-nine
Old members and some new
And visitors a few
There's lots to drink and eat
So give yourselves a treat.

Our Norah made the cake
This is the third
She should be getting good
Although we knew she would
Daisy did all the flowers
She really does excel
At showing off her powers
She runs the Drama as well.

We do enjoy our meetings
Although I'm in the chair
And Annie does the minutes
We try to keep things fair
Lena brings good reports
I'm sure you'll all agree
And Rosie takes our cash
We're saving for our sprees.

So do enjoy yourselves
Make sure you eat your fill
The ladies have worked hard
I'm sure that you can tell.
I thank you all so much
Not only for today
To those who've taken part
And helped in any way.

BUTTERFLY IN CHURCH

Butterfly, butterfly, why come you here?
This is no place for you,
This is a place to think of heaven,
This is a place to pray,
You have no sins to be forgiven,
So butterfly fly away.

**Christine Hodgson
Abbots Langley Branch**

AN EVENING OUT

It was the Ferrar's Guild hike arranged by
Janet and Chris,
A lovely walk none of us wanted to miss,
It all started at the Dunstable car dump,
By a climb over the stile and a jump.

With stones sticking in our feet we all
had a laugh,
As we rambled along the bridle path,
Dodging what the horses had left behind,
Everyone was friendly and to me so kind.
We walked high up, fields to the left and
to the right,
Along an avenue of green trees, wild roses,
not a house in sight.
At the end of the walk there was the van
and the car,
We were all taken for a ride, though not
very far.

To the 'Anchor' in Stanbridge, for drinks,
cats, and a chatter,
Time passed quickly, soon it was late, but
it didn't really matter,
As a lovely evening was enjoyed by
everyone.
So thank you Janet and Chriss for a walk
with Nature and an evening of fun.

Dorcas Croft, Ferrar's Guild

CRABBIT OLD WOMAN

What do you see nurses, what do you see,
What are you thinking when you look
at me?
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,
Who dribbles her food and makes not
reply
When you say in a loud voice, "I do wish
you'd try."
Who seems not to notice the things that
you do
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe.
Who, unresisting or not, lets you do as
you will
With bathing and feeding, the long day
to fill.
Is that what you're thinking, is that what
you see?
Then open your eyes, you're not looking
at me.
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I move at your bidding, as I eat at
your will.
I'm a child of ten with a father and
mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another.
A young girl at sixteen with wings on
her feet
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll
meet.
A bride soon at twenty, my heart gives
a leap,
Remembering the vows that I promised
to keep.
At twenty-five now I have young of
my own,
Who need me to build a secure happy
home.
A woman of thirty my young now grow
fast,

Bound to each other with ties that
should last.
At forty my young now will soon be gone,
But my man stays beside me to see I
don't mourn.
At fifty once more babies play round
my knee
Again we know children, my loved one
and me.
Dark days are upon me, my husband
is dead
I look at the future, I shudder with dread,
For my young are all busy rearing young
of their own
And I think of the years and the love I
have known.
I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel
'Tis her jest to make old age look like
a fool.
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour
depart
And now there's a stone where I once
had a heart.
But inside this old carcass a young girl
still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart
swells,
I remember the joys I remember the pain,
And I'm loving and living life over again,
I think of the years all too few, gone
so fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing
can last.
So open your eyes nurse, open and see
Not a crabbit old woman, look closer,
see me.

**(This poem was found amongst the
possessions of an old Irish woman
who had died in a geriatric hospital.)**

RECIPE CORNER

The Welling Brew

When you make it Joan suggests you give it your own name.

½ pt Co-op sweet Sherry
4 large Co-op eggs
small tin condensed milk
2 teaspoons coffee, gran. or liquid
2 wineglasses Whisky or Brandy may be used
2 basins
one strainer

Method

Beat eggs well, then strain. Add condensed milk, whisk together, strain. Add Sherry mixed with coffee, strain. Add Whisky or Brandy, taste. If needed, add another slurp of Whisky or Brandy. Have your own glass at the ready. Strain all together. Pour into dark bottle.

This may be drunk straight away or kept, but I'm told it's a keep-it-if-you-can drink. "Delicious," says Joan Welling.

Mock Cream Filling

2 oz soft margarine
2 oz caster sugar
2 tablespoons boiled water
1 tablespoon cold milk

Method

Cream together margarine and sugar. Add liquids drop by drop.

Mrs E. Smith, Brimington Guild

Washing Hint

To remove oil or grease from clothes, use Fairy Liquid before you put in water.

Hot Swiss Trifle

1 jam Swiss roll
1 tin fruit
2 large eggs (separated)
1 tablespoon custard powder
1 pint milk
3 tablespoons sugar
glace cherries to decorate

Method

Slice Swiss roll and put in Pyrex dish, drain tin of fruit and put on top of cake. Make custard with egg yolks, custard powder and 1 tablespoon sugar. Pour on to cake and allow to cool.

Make Meringue

Beat egg whites until stiff, add 1 tablespoon sugar and beat again. Stir in remaining sugar. Pile on top of pudding, sealing edges. Put in oven on 300 F until golden brown.

Eunice Stump

When we were children we were told
of the wise men and a star
Who travelled o'er the country
a journey that was far
They saw a lowly cattle shed
the star stopped overhead
It shone down on the animals
and a manger for a bed.
A baby, just been born, was
peaceful as he lay.
And it is that baby's birthday
we celebrate this day.
Seasons come and seasons go
but still that story's told
And all wait as years go by
seeing destiny unfold.
May the spirit of Christmastide give
us happiness and peace.
And in the New Year may our
unity never cease.

Mrs J. Jelliman,
Upper Belvedere Branch
Composer of the Guild song
"The Tree".